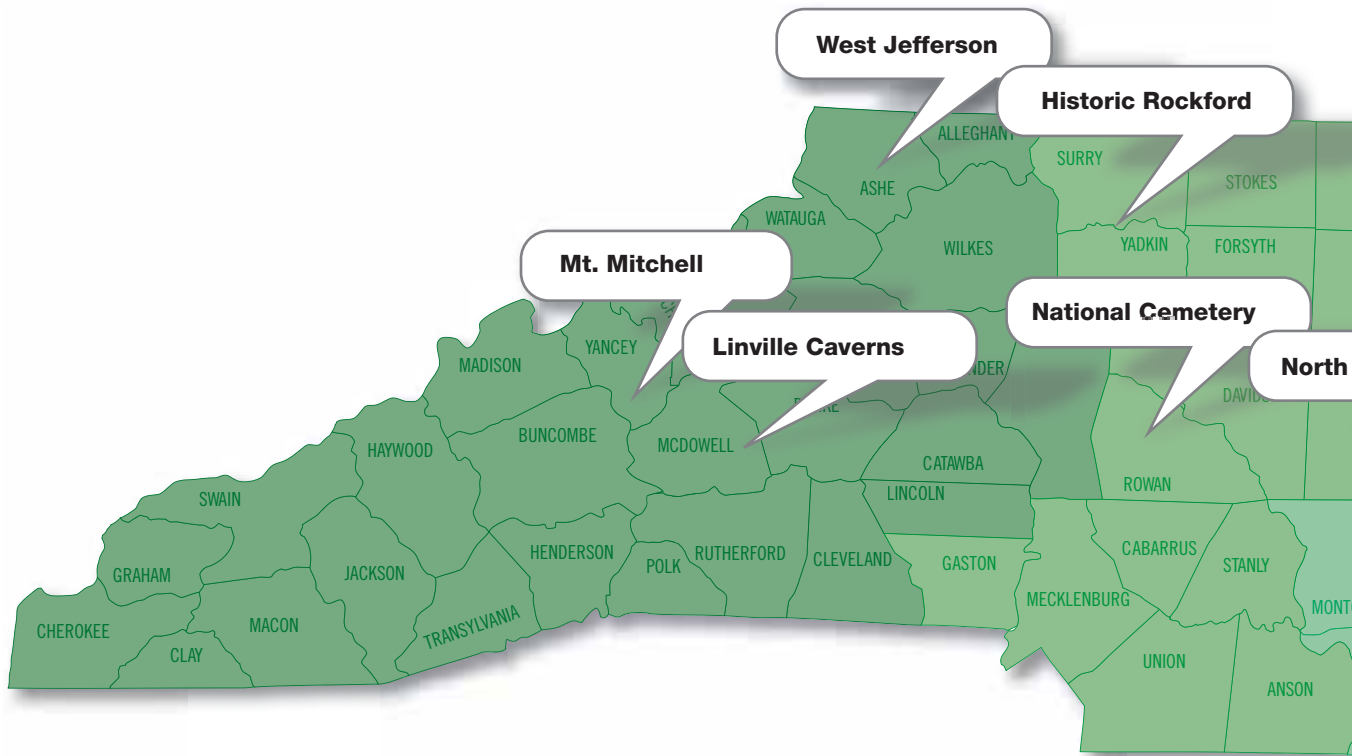




2010 Touchstone Energy 
Travel Guide

15 Carolina Country Adventures Ahead



2010 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide

From one end to the other, North Carolina is about as diverse as any state in the nation. We've got hard gemstones in the west, soft crabs on the coast and red clay in the middle. The tobacco we grow in the mountains is different than what we grow in the east. What we live in, how we drive, what we eat and how we talk varies from one region to another.

Our annual Touchstone Energy Travel Guide encourages you to experience this variety firsthand.

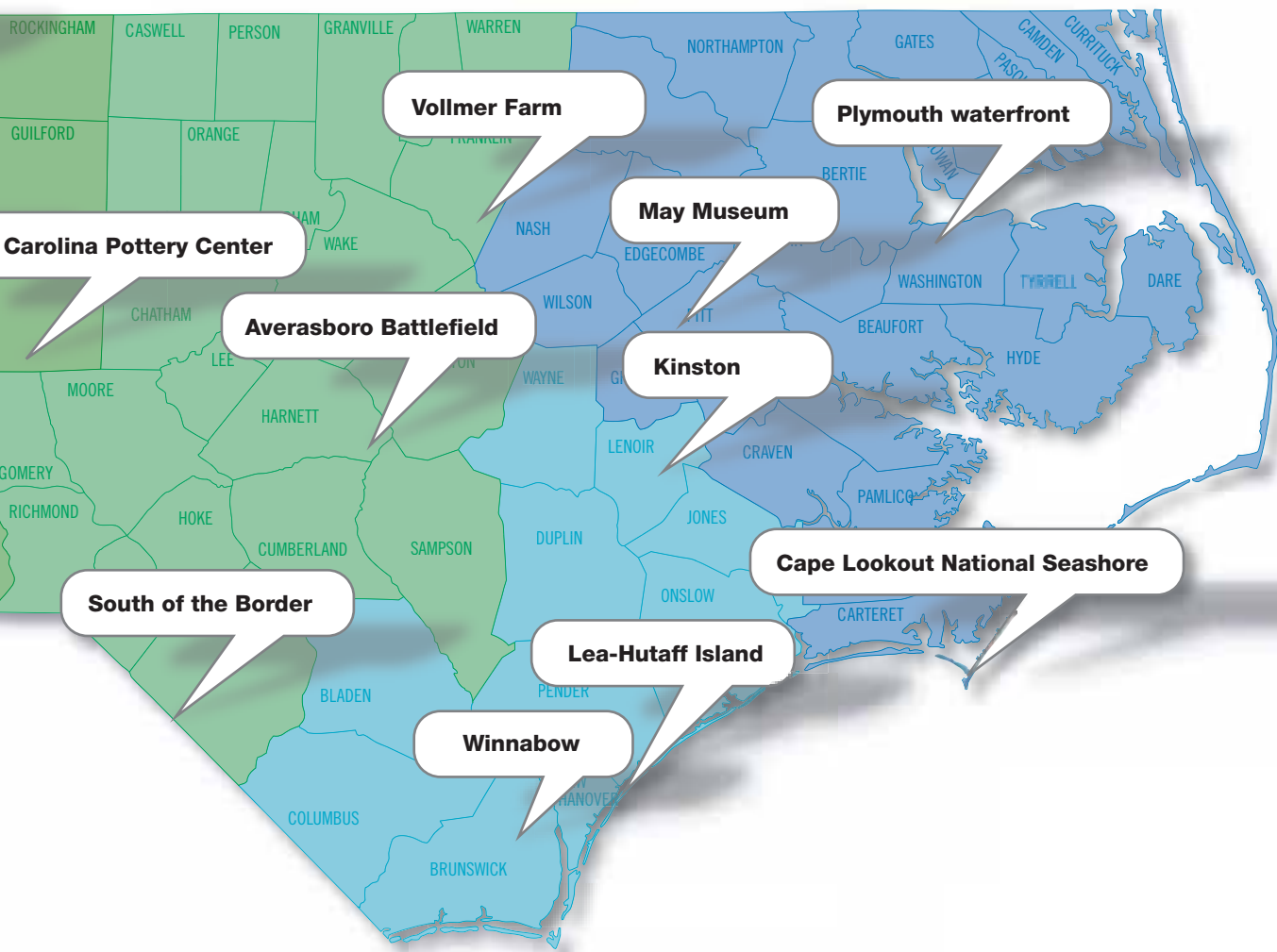
This year we've updated the primary sources of general information about each of five regions and accompany them with a set of Carolina Country Adventures. Among the three adventures for each region are some well-known standbys and some not so familiar, some historical, some recreational, some just plain fun.

As you make your way through this guide and through the countryside, you can be assured that a Touchstone Energy cooperative is nearby.

Thanks to everyone who helped us compile this guide, and to our sponsors: the cooperatives and the advertisers on pages 40 to 43.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
of North Carolina
The power of human connections®



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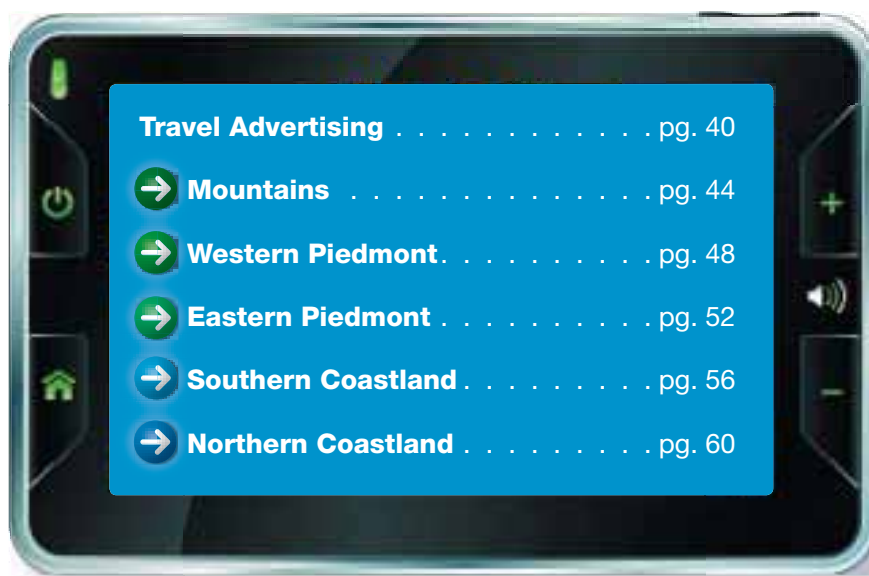
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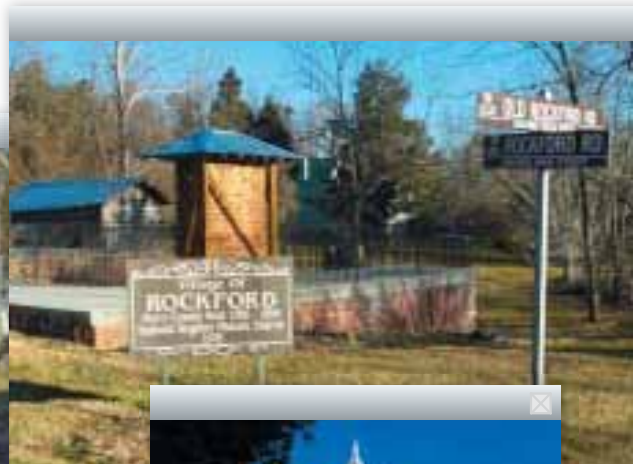


This supplement to Carolina Country is brought to you by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, serving nearly 2 million people in 93 North Carolina counties. We bring the power of human connections to all regions of North Carolina. Touchstone Energy cooperatives nationwide are committed to integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement.

Historic Rockford

Surry County

By Michael E.C. Gery



Rockford Preservation Society

Rockford General Store (closed Monday & Tuesday), Rockford Park, and the Methodist Church.

→ What a great location: facing south and overlooking the easy, 400-foot wide Yadkin River whose north bank is a good place for a railroad. Its location is one reason Rockford held on as the Surry County seat for 61 years (1789–1850), until the state used the river as a boundary to cut the county in half and make Yadkin County on the other side. Then the county seat moved to Dobson.

They say Aaron Burr made his way here, and so did Andrew Jackson, staying at the Grant tavern. The hotel was a happening place from 1796 to 1925. It was a sad day when the Grant-Burrus Hotel burned down in 1974.

Mark York had a tavern here, too, beginning about 1830. On April 1–2, 1865, a week before Lee's surrender, Union Gen. George Stonemen's raiders came down along the river and up the hill to York Tavern. They say he asked Mrs. York where the locals had

hid their valuables, but she refused to say and told the Yankees to get on out, which they did.

Charming, modern-day Rockford

Today, Rockford's location is no longer on a well-beaten path, which gives it a whole different charm. The people here know it, too, and in 1972 Evelyn Holyfield formed the Rockford Preservation Society. Headed by Hannah Holyfield, the Society today owns six properties in the little village and has been carefully saving and showing them off. The hotel site is a public park. The York Tavern has been stabilized, and a N.C. Civil War Trail marker stands in front. The Dudley Glass Store (1850) is now Rockford Mercantile museum store. The Post Office (1900) is a photo gallery. The Masonic Lodge (1797) housed Rockford's last post office (1914–1975), and the Society plans to restore it someday. And the crown jewel Rockford Methodist Church (1914) hosts special events and a famous Candlelight Christmas the first week in December and displays a striking, new fresco fittingly titled "Come Unto Me." The old courthouse building is in the village, too, but is privately owned.

Rockford General Store is the happening place here now. It's been here since the railroad came through in 1890. Besides local news and information, the store trades in historical candies, Nehi orange, signs, antiques and authentic general store goods. Across the way is Yadkin River Adventures outfitters, experts on the local river below it.

They used to get here by fording the river. Then in 1962, they built the "low water bridge," one of those that washed over regularly but never washed out. By 2002, after some dissent, they had replaced it with a high bridge.

Surrounding Historic Rockford is some of the prettiest country in the state—well-kept farms and yards, made prettier by all the vineyards out here.

Memorial Day weekend is a big deal here, and this year a major Remember Rockford reunion is scheduled Labor Day weekend for anyone who has ties to the place. 📍

Rockford Preservation Society

4844 Rockford Road,
Dobson, NC 27017

(336) 374-3825

www.rememberrockford.com

LAT: 36.269

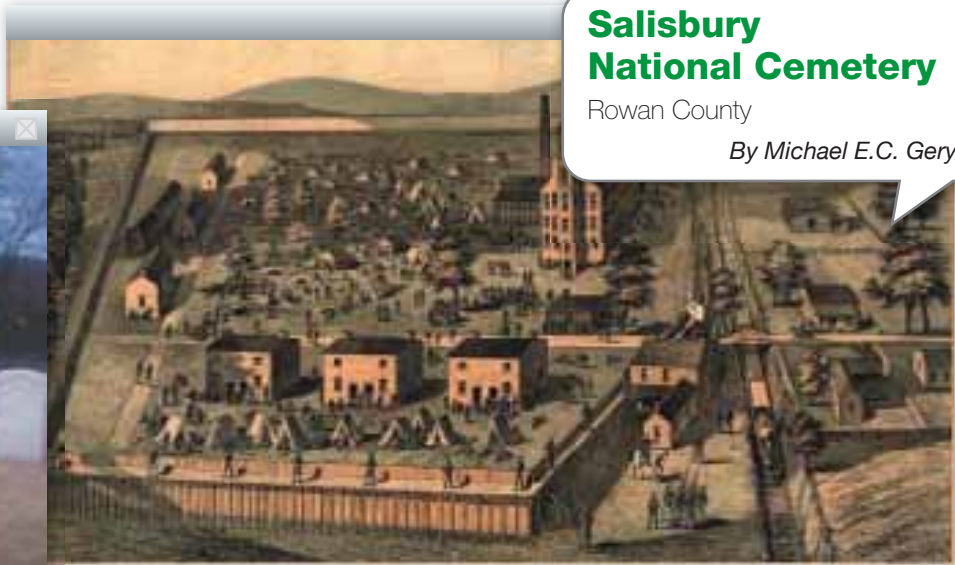
LONG: -80.649



Salisbury National Cemetery

Rowan County

By Michael E.C. Gery



The 1876 cemetery monument and an 1886 lithograph of the prison.

➔ All cemeteries are historic and solemn, but the Salisbury National Cemetery may be the most historic and solemn in North Carolina.

Spread on 63 gently rolling and well-groomed acres are rows and rows of white stone markers, similar to the more famous Arlington National Cemetery, memorializing military veterans and families from all branches of service. The quiet dignity of the graves mutes the adjacent municipal Lincoln Park, a factory, a housing project, the din of I-85 and the Southern Railway which played a role in the cemetery's history.

As the War Between the States approached, Salisbury was one of North Carolina's leading cities, a major manufacturing and railroad hub. In December 1861, some seven months after North Carolina joined the Confederacy, 120 Union soldiers, many captured at Bull Run in Virginia, arrived here to occupy the Salisbury Confederate Military Prison newly established in a nearby 16-acre factory compound. Over the next three years, the prison population rose to about 5,000, composed of Union POWs, deserters and various criminals with both Union and rebel ties. In summer 1864, the exchange of prisoners between the Union and the

Confederacy ceased, and the population of a prison intended for 2,500 swelled to unmanageable numbers approaching 10,000. All buildings were converted to makeshift hospitals. A Union Naval blockade forced a shortage of medicine and supplies to the region, and no place inside or out was sanitary.

Mass graves and prison burning

Records indicate that a 2 percent death rate at Salisbury Prison by October 1864 had risen to a point where nearly one in three men were dying. Coffin burial had degraded to a 2 p.m. daily wagon transport of bodies to an abandoned cornfield about a quarter-mile outside the prison walls. There the bodies were dumped into trenches. By the end, the mass graves comprised 18 trenches, each 240 feet long. One estimate is that some 11,000 men were buried here. Government records can account for only about 5,000. Today, that burial ground, a surface smaller than a football field, is bounded by unmarked headstones at each end of the trenches.

When a prisoner exchange was reinstated some two months before the war's end, about 5,100 Salisbury prisoners were sent to Wilmington, N.C., and to Richmond, Va. And on

Rowan County Tourism Development Authority

204 East Innes Street, Ste.120
Salisbury, NC 28144

(800) 332-2343

www.visitsalisburync.com

LAT: 35.917

LONG: -81.938



April 12, 1865, three days after Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Union Gen. George Stoneman concluded his raid through western North Carolina by burning the Salisbury prison. The same year saw the burial grounds established as a national cemetery.

More monuments and memorials

Salisbury National Cemetery was dedicated in 1874, headstones went in two years later. Congress commissioned a 50-foot monument completed in 1876. The state of Maine in 1908 placed a monument to remember its dead, and Pennsylvania did the same in 1909. The Rowan County Veterans Council donated an all-wars memorial in 1990, the Daughters of the Confederacy set a tablet for the unnamed dead in 1992, and a memorial for the 4th Marine Division was erected in 2002.

The cemetery, entered off E. Monroe St. or S. Railroad St., is managed by the U.S. Veterans Administration and is open dawn to dusk for visitation. 📍

North Carolina Pottery Center

Seagrove, Randolph County

By Margarita Galvan



The Pottery Center's light, airy gallery, and a demonstration by Seagrove's Chad Brown in the educational building.



Situated in the village of Seagrove, surrounded by bucolic countryside speckled with approximately 100 potting studios, stands the North Carolina Pottery Center. With its mission to promote an awareness of North Carolina's pottery heritage through exhibitions, education, outreach and visitor services, the NC Pottery Center (NCPC) offers visitors a chance to explore the state's ongoing pottery heritage and traditions.

Family ties keep pottery traditions alive

The state of North Carolina boasts a highly developed potting culture. Geological boons of abundant naturally occurring clay and the minerals used in glazes helped root North Carolina's ceramic history. However, it's the state's unbroken chain of pottery heritage which allowed the art to grow and thrive into what it is today.

The Industrial Revolution forced most potters around the nation to leave their wheels for more modern trades, but family networks of potters in pockets of North Carolina kept the traditions alive, enabling the passage of knowledge, techniques and talents down from generation to generation. Many family potting studios in Seagrove can be traced back four and five generations. The village of Seagrove, referred to as the "potting capital of the North Carolina," is a fitting location for the first State Pottery Center in the nation. The center has been well received from the start. Only six months after its opening in 1998, visitors from each state of the nation and 20 foreign countries had toured the center.


Center displays more than 800 pieces

Architect Frank Harmon of Raleigh designed the award-winning facility, with a nod towards a rustic barn but tempered with a light and airy elegance, where more than 800 pottery pieces and artifacts are on display. Permanent exhibits depict the state's historical beginnings of pottery from prehistoric Native American ceramics, the European settlers' traditions and up through modern day. New exhibits

guided by the center's mission are featured quarterly. Additionally, the center showcases contemporary pottery talents from local Seagrove potters in a gallery of vases, cookware and scowling face jugs in every hue from brilliant saturated reds to muted earth tones. For visitors intending on shopping Seagrove's unparalleled variety, this sampling of local potters' work both whets the shopping appetite and can serve as a guide for plotting which of the many pottery studios to visit.

Upcoming events

The NCPC puts on demonstrations, workshops and events throughout the year. Upcoming is a live auction, free and open to the public, on April 25. Leisurely peruse the auction pieces from 3:30 to 4:40 p.m. while munching on appetizers and enjoying the live bluegrass band. The bidding starts at 5 p.m.

The NCPC is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. 

North Carolina Pottery Center

233 East Avenue
Seagrove, NC 27341

(336) 873-8430

www.ncpotterycenter.com

LAT: 36.269

LONG: -80.649





Ken Hall

NC Division of Tourism - Bill Russ

→ Western Piedmont Travel Resources

Anson County Chamber (Wadesboro)

(704) 694-4181
www.ansoncounty.org

Anson County Tourism Development Authority

(704) 694-9570
www.discoveranson.com

Archdale-Trinity Chamber

(336) 434-2073
www.archdaletrinitychamber.com

Belmont Chamber

(704) 825-5307
www.belmontchamber.com
www.montcrossareachamber.com

Bessemer City Chamber

(704) 629-3900
www.bessemercity.com

Cabarrus County CVB

(800) 848-3740/(704) 782-4340
www.visitcabarrus.com

Central Park NC

(910) 428-9001
www.centralparknc.org

Charlotte Chamber

(704) 378-1300
www.charlottechamber.org

Charlotte CVB

(800) 722-1994/(704) 334-2282
www.charlottesgotalot.com

Cherryville Chamber

(704) 435-3451
www.cherryvillechamber.com
www.cityofcherryville.com

Davidson County

(866) 604-2389
www.visitdavidsoncounty.com

Davie County Chamber

(336) 751-3304
www.daviecounty.com

Denton Area Chamber

(336) 859-5922
www.dentonnorthcarolina.com

Eden Chamber

(336) 623-3336
www.edenchamber.com

Elkin-Jonesville Chamber

(877) SAVORYV/(336) 526-1111
www.yadkinvalley.org

Gaston County Chamber

(800) 348-8461/(704) 864-2621
www.gastonchamber.com

Gaston County Travel & Tourism

(800) 849-9994/(704) 825-4044
www.gastontourism.com

Greensboro Area Chamber

(336) 387-8300
www.greensboro.org

Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

(800) 344-2282/(336) 274-2282
www.visitgreensboro.com
www.greensboronc.org

High Point Chamber

(336) 882-5000
www.highpointchamber.org

High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau

(800) 720-5255/(336) 884-5255
www.highpoint.org

Kernersville Chamber

(336) 993-4521
www.kernersvillenc.com

King Chamber

(336) 983-9308
www.kingnc.com

Lexington Area Chamber and Visitors Center

(866) 604-2389/(336) 236-4218
www.visitlexingtonnc.com

Marshville Chamber

(704) 624-3183
www.marshvillenc.com

Matthews Chamber

(704) 847-3649
www.matthewschamber.com

Mint Hill

(704) 545-9726
www.minthill.com

Monroe Tourism & Visitors Bureau

(704) 282-4542
www.visitmonroenc.org

Greater Mount Airy

(800) 948-0949/(336) 786-6116
www.visitmayberry.com

Piedmont Triad Visitors Center

(800) 388-9830/(336) 388-9830
www.greensboronc.org

Piedmont Triad

(800) 669-4556/(336) 668-4556
www.piedmonttriadnc.com

Randolph County, Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau

(800) 626-2672/(336) 626-0364
www.heartofnorthcarolina.com

Reidsville Chamber

(336) 349-8481
www.reidsvillechamber.org

Rowan County Chamber

(704) 633-4221
www.rowanchamber.com

Rowan County CVB

(800) 332-2343/(704) 638-3100
www.visitsalisburync.com

Stanly County Chamber

(704) 982-8116
www.stanlychamber.org

Stanly County CVB

(800) 650-1476/(704) 986-2583
www.stanlycvb.com

Stokes County

www.visitstokesnc.com

Surry County Tourism Development Authority

(877) 999-8300/(336) 401-8390
www.verysurry.com

Thomasville Visitors Center

(800) 611-9907/(336) 472-4422
www.thomasvilletourism.com

Union County Chamber

(704) 289-4567
www.unioncountycoc.com

Western Rockingham Chamber

(336) 548-6248
www.westernrockinghamchamber.com

Winston-Salem Visitor Center

(866) 728-4200/(336) 728-4200
www.visitwinstonsalem.com

Yadkin County Chamber

1-877-4YADKIN (1-877-492-3546)/
(336) 679-2200
www.yadkinchamber.org