

50

REASONS TO LOVE ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO IN THE CHAPEL HILL/ORANGE COUNTY AREA. WHERE WILL YOU START?

1. Amazing restaurants, like **Crook's Corner, Lantern, Panciuto, Acme, Mama Dips, Crossroads Chapel Hill, Il Palio & more.**



2. For Lexington and Eastern-style barbecue, there's **Allen and Sons, Hillsborough BBQ Company, Pantana Bob's Restaurant and Bar, and The Pig.** Messy good!

3. Acclaimed area microbreweries include **Carolina Brewery, Mystery Brewing Company, Steel String Craft Brewery, and Top of the Hill Restaurant and Brewery.**



4. The area is home to a dazzling array of live music—legendary venues like the **Cat's Cradle, Local 506, and The Cave, and many outdoor venues during spring through fall.**

5. For public art; permanent and touring: **Norma Rae, Exhale, Pythagoras, Sculpture in the Garden, Art in the Garden Invitational, and Open Studio Tours** plus dozens of painted murals throughout downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

6. Where is the Pink Pig? Davie Poplar? Blue fire trucks? The **Goodnight Carolina Family Fun Map** and app can show you the way.

7. Winding roads, country scenery and... century farms, berry farms, and dairy farms. Additionally, Orange County boasts five farmers' markets; all open year round with seasonal events.

8. *Sports Illustrated* has called **Chapel Hill "The best college town in America,"** and **Franklin Street—named after Benjamin Franklin—is a big reason why.**



9. For some of the finest antique shops like **Whitehall** at the Villa, **Shops at Daniel Boone Village, Scavenger Antiques and Leland Little Auction house.**

10. Memorial Hall plays host to internationally renowned recitalists and orchestras, dance and chamber ensembles, jazz, folk, and world music performers, opera and theatre.

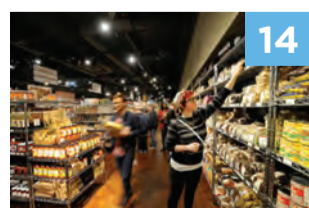
11. PlayMakers Repertory Company is one of America's leading theatre companies according to *American Theatre*. Its artists are always at the top of their game.



12. **TerraVITA Food & Wine Event** brings the finest biodynamic and organically grown wines and microbrews in the world together with some of the best North Carolina chefs, known for their outstanding reputations and their devotion to locally grown ingredients.

13. Dirty South Improv Comedy Theater in Chapel Hill is an internationally famous improv comedy club and home to the South's largest comedic gathering.

14. *New York Times* food critic **Craig Claiborne** referred to the **60,000-sq.-ft. landmark, Southern Season, as "wall to wall and floor to ceiling, a visual and gustatory delight."** And it's worth noting that you can sharpen your culinary skills at their cooking school.



15. If you're hungry, visit **Sutton's Drug Store** on Franklin Street—a living museum in all the best ways. If your photo makes it on the wall, your life's work is done.

16. Come, be inspired, and learn through play at **Kidzu Children's Museum.**

17. West Franklin Street's **Festifall** features visual and performing arts, food, children's activities, music, and live performances.



18. **Book a tour at Top of the Hill Distillery, the only fully local and USDA certified organic distillery in the South, and try their world-class vodka, gin, and whiskey.**

19. What are the **Food Network, The Today Show, and Bon Appétit** talking about? **Sugarland** of course! The only bakery in North Carolina with a full bar.

20. A historic landmark since 1929, **Merritt's Store and Grill** is touted as the "Home of the World Famous BLTs" and chicken fried humor.



21. **NC Botanical Garden—the largest in the Southeast—is known for its nature trails, carnivorous plant collections, aquatics, herb gardens, and revolving exhibits of artwork.**

22. **UNC-Chapel Hill** is the oldest public university in the U.S. (chartered in 1789) and the only public university in the U.S. that awarded degrees in the 18th century. And the iconic **Old Well** was the primary source of campus water for more than a century.

23. **Paperhand Puppet Intervention** is a spectacle of giant papier-mâché characters, stilt walkers, dancers, shadow puppets, and original music in the **Forest Theatre.**



24. Shoot for the stars at the **Morehead Planetarium & Science Center.** The first planetarium in the South and one of the largest in the U.S., **Morehead** was a NASA training facility for 15 years.

25. Dubbed the "University's living room," **The Carolina Inn** was voted one of America's Top 10 Haunted Hotels thanks to **Dr. William Jacobs**, a 17-year "resident" in room 256.

26. Two words: **Dean Smith.** The legendary former **Tar Heel** coach was an ambassador for Chapel Hill and the state of North Carolina.

27. Relive the early days of **Michael Jordan** at the **Carolina Basketball Museum**, along with **Tar Heel** national titles, game-winning shots, and **NBA First Round Picks.**

28. **UNC's Finley Golf Course** was redesigned by **Tom Fazio** and continues to be recognized as one of the nation's top collegiate layouts.



29. A walk through the **Ackland Art Museum** on South Columbia Street in Chapel Hill can be an introduction to **Peter Paul Rubens, Eugene Delacroix, and Andy Warhol.**

30. The **Stone Center for Black Culture and History** is a must see—one of the preeminent centers in the nation for the critical examination of African and African-American diaspora cultures.

31. The **Horace Williams House** is the only historic house in Chapel Hill open to the public—and is where **Preservation Chapel Hill** offers tours of historic importance.

32. **The League of American Bicyclists** name both **Carrboro** and **Chapel Hill** as **Bicycle Friendly Communities.**



32. Designated bike trails lead from town to country, countywide.

33. Carrboro's **300 E. Main** for boutique shops, restaurants, and lodging.

34. Carrboro's **Weaver Street Market** is the largest community-owned co-op grocery store in the Southeast, offering local, organic, natural, and humanely raised foods.

35. Carr Mill Mall was rehabilitated under the **Tax Reform Act of 1976.** Much of the original architecture remains in its restaurants and upscale boutique shops.

36. **Open Eye Café**, a coffee shop affectionately known as "Carrboro's living room" serving beans from **Colombia, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Honduras, Guatemala, and Peru.**

37. **The ArtsCenter** in Carrboro offers classes in visual, literary and performing arts, music concerts, theater productions, children's programs, and an art gallery.



38. Hillsborough was once the colonial capital of North Carolina and is now the county seat of Orange County.

39. **Moorefield's** was built in 1785 as a summer home by **Alfred Moore**, a military and educational leader, jurist, and the last North Carolinian on the U.S. Supreme Court.

40. The **Old Orange County Courthouse** in Hillsborough, with its town clock in the cupola, has been cited by the Library of Congress as one of the finest examples of Greek-Revival architecture in the U.S.

41. Among the late 18th and early 19th century structures still standing today, you will also find a chocolate shop, wine store, art galleries, a yarn shop, crafted jewelry store and much more on **Churton Street** in downtown Hillsborough.

42. **Hillsborough's Ayr Mount Historic Site, built around 1815, is one of North Carolina's finest Federal-era plantation homes. Meander through woodlands and pastures on the Poet's Walk, a one-mile walking trail surrounding the historic site along the banks of the Eno River.**



43. The **Alexander Dickson House** was the last headquarters of the commander of the largest armies to surrender to Union forces, larger than **Lee's** army at **Appomattox.**

44. The **Burwell School** was one of North Carolina's leading Presbyterian schools for "young ladies" from 1837-1857. Just two blocks down, find over 2000 artifacts at the **Orange County Historical Museum**, including what's believed to be the only complete set of colonial weights and measures within the U.S.

45. **Feel the need for speed at the fastest 3/8-mile racing oval in America, better known as the Orange County Speedway, offering grassroots racing at its best.**



46. Orange County Sportsplex has a fitness center with a bird's-eye view of the ice-skating rink (NHL-size, open year round) and an aquatic center with three pools.

47. Historic **Occoneechee Speedway Trail** has a 4-mile trail for hiking and a 1-mile oval track where the original **NASCAR** racers tested their driving skills from 1948-1968.

48. Stroll Hillsborough's **Riverwalk**, a 1.8-mile greenway with loop trails, bridges, and boardwalk, accessible to trails, parks, and the **Eno River.**

49. Shop 'til you drop with irresistibly Italian selections at the twice-annual **VIETRI Warehouse Sale** and ongoing outlet store.

50. **Maple View Farm** produces over 2 million pounds of milk every year and to-die-for ice cream. Seasonal flavors include candied bacon, banana pudding, and eggnog.

