



# VISIT CHAPEL HILL AND ORANGE COUNTY, NC

## ABOUT US

**Southern Living Readers rated Chapel Hill, NC among the South's Best College Towns in 2022 coming in at No. 2.** There is so much to do and see on a visit to our destination in central North Carolina, 18 miles west of RDU International Airport. You are surrounded by live music, breweries, eclectic eats, local culture, beautiful gardens all around this quintessential college town, home to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the oldest public university in the country. Visit neighbors Carrboro and Hillsborough which abound in history, food and art. Public art abounds with dozens of murals throughout the county.

## ATTRACTIONS & THE ARTS (UPDATES AND ADDITIONS)

In addition to the \$9.2 million dollar renovations completed at the **Morehead Planetarium & Science Center**, the first planetarium in the South recently added a 4K digital projection system giving fulldome theater visitors crisp views of the sky like never before. Come see the new interactive "maker space", updated science demonstration stage, expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances in research and science, updated fulldome theater and gift shop. Celebrates 75 years in 2024. Between 1960 and 1975 nearly every astronaut who participated in the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Apollo-Soyuz programs trained in celestial navigation at the Planetarium, including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon. A visit to the **North Carolina Botanical Garden**, one of the largest natural botanical gardens in the southeast, is like taking a walk across the state of North Carolina through display gardens, nature trails, carnivorous plant collections, perennial borders, aquatics and herb gardens and more. Now through December 4, 2022 see the **34<sup>th</sup> annual Sculpture in the Garden** featuring 77 art pieces by 50 North Carolina artists. The **Carolina Basketball Museum** has some new artifacts, including the ball Luke Maye shot to beat Kentucky in the 2017 NCAA Elite Eight en route to UNC's sixth NCAA title, the shoes Roy Williams wore in the final coaching win of his career in 2021, and the latest addition, the shot location on the court of Caleb Love's decisive 3 pointer on the way to beating Duke in the 2022 NCAA Final Four, updated historical panels and video to illustrate the new coach Hubert Davis. In Hillsborough in the River Park, see the new **Art Archway** sculpture and the newly rededicated **Occaneechi Replica Village** with building a palisade and four ati (huts), a work arbor, fire pit, lean-to, and cooking table recognizing the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation's roots in Hillsborough. Finally in 2023, **Carrboro ArtsCenter** which has been in its current location since 1979 providing music, plays, art classes and more, is relocating to a new space just blocks away at 400 Roberson Street. MARK YOUR CAELNDAR for **Uproar Festival of Public Art**, a new countywide festival taking place July 14 – August 12, 2023. See fantastical works of work throughout the downtowns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough

## HEAD TO THE FARM & THE GREAT OUTDOORS FOR FAMILY FUN

Visit Chapel Hill's **Spring Haven Farm** meeting baby goats, pigs, donkeys, cows and more. Kids can take a ride on the Tractor Train Express and make farm crafts. Seasonal events from February to December. Pumpkin carving, movies with goats, s'mores with goats and more. *Yelp* named Spring Haven Farm the best place to pick pumpkins in North Carolina in October 2021. In the summer visit Chapel Hill's **Lavender Oaks Farm**, a working lavender farm featuring 4000 lavender plants in 9 varieties as well as a farm shop and much more. **McKee Farm & Cornfield Maze** plans to expand to be open to the public more often. Take a **Haunted Hillsborough Guided Tour**. Walk around the **Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail**, the site of one of the first two NASCAR tracks to open and this dirt track was in use from 1949-1968. Also check out numerous walking trails, nature preserves and the **Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area**.

## WHATS NEW IN ACCOMMODATIONS

The **Carolina Inn** on the edge of the UNC Chapel Hill campus recent renovates to its meeting space and other parts of hotel it soon celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. Popular 12 Days of Christmas at The Carolina Inn is now Our Favorite Things. The **Siena Hotel** has new renovations in its in ballroom and lobby and the **Tru by Hilton Chapel Hill** opened in April 2022 with 98 rooms.

Website: [visitchapelhill.org](http://visitchapelhill.org)

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## WHAT'S NEW IN CRAFT BEER AND SPIRITS

Hillsborough, NC will once again have a craft beer brewery when **Eno River Brewing** comes to property that fronts the Eno River and Riverwalk. An onsite building will house the brewing equipment and tap room. New bathrooms and two giant pull-up garage doors will open to a large open seating area with canopy, heaters in winter and fans in summer. Seating capacity will be 80. Anticipate a spring/summer 2023 opening. Eventually there will be space for food trucks. **Botanist & Barrel** in northern Orange County crafts real southern ciders, fruit ciders and wines all on an organic estate fruit farm. Taste their ciders and wines which are raw, wild, unfiltered, unfiltered and unpasteurized. Home to Carrboro's Steel String Brewery's new production facility, is the new **Pluck Farm** on Hwy 54 in western Orange County crafting beers with native NC ingredients foraged from the land. Family- & dog-friendly venue featuring a beer garden, food truck pop-ups, music, lawn games, rolling pastures, plus a 13-hole disc golf course. Property also includes part of the Mountains to Sea Trail. Chapel Hill's **Honeysuckle Farm, Tea House and Meadery** has tons of new offerings. Recent expansions provide includes teahouse room addition, tea tours, meadery tasting room, flowers on the farm, shop for teas and nurse plants, new shaded stage and gazebo, onsite yurt rental, picnics and more. Enjoy farm-based artisan beverages that vary from their Signature Herbal Tea Blends to their hand-crafted mead. **Franklin Street Motors Beer Garden** in downtown Chapel Hill in the converted Franklin Street Motors car lot. Climb the deck and sit to sip beer, enjoy food truck on site, picnic tables and more. **The Gathering Place** is a new local game store and bar in downtown Chapel Hill on Rosemary Street where you can buy and play tabletop games, enjoy eclectic mix of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. The Charlotte based **NoDa Brewing Company & Tapas** has a brewery/restaurant in East 54 development in Chapel Hill. In Carrboro, see the new **Speakeasy on Main**. Opening Soon - **Rocks + Acid** is a locally-owned, female-led wine, beer and spirits store with cheese, charcuterie and caviar offerings and a wine supper club to match sellers with wine lovers. Wine prices will vary depending on the type, and special bottles will be opened weekly.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE FOOD SCENE

In Chapel Hill, **Bluebird**, a new French Bistro is open by Hawthorne & Wood Chef Brandon Sharp, **Coco, Espresso, Bistro & Bar** is an expanded plant-based restaurant, bar, coffee and pastry café and **Piero's Pasta & Wine**, house made premier pasta. In downtown Chapel Hill, find as **MOMO's Master**, new Himalayan restaurant and Basecamp, small plates, burgers and craft cocktails. Try churros, coffee and more at the **Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews**, an independent bookstore and Spanish-style chocolateria that has expanded next door calling the space **Prologue**. Carrboro NC welcomed Italian **Grata Café** and **Tesoro** and **Breakaway Café Carrboro**. Coming soon is **LA Tequila Eats** and **Haw River Farmhouse Ales** will be taking over **Vecino Brewing Company**, both on Main Street. In downtown Hillsborough, check out **Hillsborough Bakeshop & Pasta Co** from seven-time nominated James Beard best in southeast chef, Aaron Vandemark. Two downtown Chapel Hill restaurants are celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries –**Carolina Coffee Shop** in 2022, North Carolina's oldest continuously running restaurant and **Sutton's Drug Store** in 2023.

## Chapel Hill supporting BIPOC Businesses

**Chapel Hill Diversity** was created as a tool and resource to help support, promote, and connect BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) businesses in the Orange County, North Carolina communities of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough North Carolina. <https://chapelhilldiversity.com/>



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