

What's New in Chapel Hill



Hotel News

Experience the **Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel's** total multi-million dollar transformation which reopened in September 2021 after a being closed since March 2020. The newly renovated property has modern, beautifully appointed guestrooms, expansive lobby and new Coffee Bar for a small bites & signature coffee. Drop by the new Blue Corners Bistro & Bar, their signature southern seafood restaurant featuring tapas style sharable plates. Enjoy access to the newly equipped Fitness Center and seasonal outdoor pool. Event venue space includes over 12,000 sq ft of indoor space & brand new landscaped outdoor event deck with 6,900 sq ft.



Visit **The Colonial Inn** in downtown Hillsborough, NC which dates to 1838. After being closed in 2001, the renovated historic venue which reopened less than a year ago, has 28 elegant sleeping rooms, indoor and outdoor event space, and a bar serving North Carolina's best Hillsborough inspired craft cocktails, local beer, wine and spirits. Experience a fantastic Sunday Brunch and ongoing live music events.

Opened in August 2020, the **Graduate Chapel Hill Hotel**, the only Graduate Hotel Property in North Carolina. Highlights the college town with colors and basketball décor as well as some state of North Carolina history. Has Trophy Room bar with food and drinks and even has a room that pays homage to Michael Jordan decorated to look like his UNC dorm room.

Coming - 98-room, four-story **TRU Hotel by Hilton**, opening January 4, 2022. Plus potential for 100 more rooms in a second building coming to east side of Chapel Hill. A two-story, 136-space parking deck would be built behind the hotel.

Don't Miss Attractions

Visit Chapel Hill's new look **Morehead Planetarium & Science Center**. The first planetarium in the South reopened within the last year after a \$9.2 renovation. The North Carolina icon as a modern-day, technology, and science hub with new main entrance, exhibit hall that pays tribute to UNC's history as a pioneer of science exploration. More than early 60 astronauts between 1959 and 1975 trained in celestial navigation at the Planetarium, including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon, an interactive "maker space"; updated science demonstration stage expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances researchers are making in science, health and technology; updated fulldome theater and gift shop.

The **North Carolina Botanical Garden**, one of the largest natural botanical gardens in the southeast, features nature trails, carnivorous plant collections, perennial borders, aquatics and herb gardens and the popular annual **Fall Sculpture in the Garden** event with works from nearly 40 North Carolina artists ranging from steel to ceramic, tiny to massive, and abstract to figurative, throughout the garden. 2021 Event runs September 12 to December 5.

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 updated historical panels and video to illustrate the hiring of Hubert Davis as the newest Tar Heel head coach.

What's New in the Arts

See more than two dozen colorful **murals** in Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough. Newest ones feature blues musician Elizabeth Cotten, Love Hillsborough Tile Mosaic, Carrboro's We Are Community and Chapel Hill's African American pioneers.

Two new Festivals coming to Orange County: November 5-7, 2021 **Tarheel Balloon Festival** at Lloyd's Dairy Farm grounds and **The Beacon**, a new countywide biennial public art festival scheduled to occur throughout Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough in the summer of 2022. The festival is focused on three-dimensional art like sculptures, installation art and projection art with artists from around the country participating. Outdoor locations will be matched with artists based on their art medium. The public can vote for their favorite art pieces online. The festival is planned for July 15 – August 15, 2022.

Get outside – What's New on the Farm in Orange County, NC

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, lawn games, rolling pastures, and a 4-hole disc golf course is up and running with a longer 9-hole course is in the works and predicted to be ready end of October. Property also includes part of the Mountains to Sea Trail.

Visit Chapel Hill's **Spring Haven Farm** meeting baby goats, pigs, donkeys, cows and more. While you're enjoying the animals, there will be treats to eat and drink and music to listen to. Kids can take a ride on the Tractor Train Express. The Craft's station features magical farm crafts and fun creations. Bird houses are for sale that you'll be able to build and design as well as pots to paint for your plants. Seasonal events from February to December. Pumpkin carving, movies with goats, s'mores with goats and more. Yelp just named Spring Haven Farm the best place to pick pumpkins in North Carolina.

Chapel Hill's **Honeysuckle Farm, Tea House and Meadery** has tons of new offerings. Recent expansions provide for 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. In the spring and 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.

What's New in the Drink & Dining Scene

Newly opened **Franklin Motors Beer Garden** in at 601 W. Franklin Street on the site on the old Franklin Street Motors car lot. Food truck on site, picnic tables and more.

Newly opened **Osteria Georgi** offers Italian cuisine from its executive chef and partner Dan Jackson, recent winner of the Food Network's Chopped. **Big Belly Que** BBQ is moving into its new location in downtown Chapel Hill soon as well as

Seafood Destiny. **Dame's Chicken & Waffles** is on Franklin

Street. Try churros, coffee and more at the **Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews**, an independent bookstore and Spanish-style chocolateria that that is expanding next door calling that space Prologue. Carrboro has welcomed **Grata Café** to Carrboro Mill Mall, **Tesoro** as well as **Mosaic Café & Bistro** to Weaver Street.



Local chef and restaurant owner Brandon Sharp plans to open his second Chapel Hill restaurant, called **Bluebird**, in the spring of 2022. This French bistro, occupy space in Meadowmont Village. Sharp also runs and owns **Hawthorne & Wood** in East 54 Chapel Hill, with an upscale menu. UNC alumnus, Sharp moved back to Chapel Hill in 2016 after honing his cooking skills in Napa Valley and New Orleans and winning multiple Michelin stars along the way. Two downtown popular restaurants approaching 100th anniversaries – **Carolina Coffee Shop** in 2022 and **Sutton's Drug Store** in 2023.

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