



VISIT CHAPEL HILL & ORANGE COUNTY, NC

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. Enjoy live music, breweries, more than 50 murals, 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.

CENTURY-OLD HISTORIC HOTEL CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY IN 2024

The Carolina Inn on the edge of the 230-year-old University of North Carolina campus has new renovated meeting space, lobby and rooms, with suite updates coming next year as the hotel celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2024. A special 1924 Centennial Lager beer and Centennial House Blend Coffee have been released. Holiday Events include craft market and beer garden. New events include a birthday party where you can build your own centennial bear, plus face painting and cupcakes. In November of 2024, there will be a time capsule event. Then in December 2024, being the 100th anniversary month, the Inn will have a big community party. Celebrations leading up to the birthday party include Gatsby-inspired parties, 1920's themed dinners, historical tours and specialty afternoon teas.



ATTRACTIONS & THE ARTS (UPDATES AND ADDITIONS)

The **ArtCenter in Carrboro** has a new location at 400 Roberson Street around the corner from its former home. This larger 18,000 square-foot space has dedicated rooms for painting, ceramics and performance space, as well as a writing studio, Youth Education Center STEM Lab, an audio and video Technology Center and a Fiber Arts Lab. The **Center Theater Company**, an emerging children's theater has moved into the old ArtsCenter location at 300 E. Main Street.



The first planetarium in the South will celebrate 75 years in 2024. After an initial \$9.2 million dollar renovation completed in 2020 at the **Morehead Planetarium & Science Center**, on the University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill campus, added a 4K digital projection system giving full-dome theater visitors crisp views of the sky like never before. See the new interactive "maker space", updated science demonstration stage, expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances in research and science and new gift shop. 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.

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See the **30th Annual Open Studio Tour** in November 2024 which features the work of more than 100 working artists in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Carrboro NC. Come and visit their studios to see and purchase their works.

HEAD TO THE FARM & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

New Farm Experience at **Union Grove Farm** – Take a tour of the regenerative farm and vineyards and learn about their muscadine thin-skinned seedless table grapes being grown. Or see their 240 sheep and herding dog Sophie during the farm’s sheep herding experience. You’ll also find a beautiful Wedding Venue Barn as well as a Spacious French Country Farm Escape, which can accommodate 16 people.



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. **NEW** to the farm is gem mining and the Farmory (archery, axe throwing and darts). In the summer, cut fresh lavender at Chapel Hill’s **Lavender Oaks Farm**. The working lavender farm features 4000 lavender plants in 9 varieties as well as their Lavendar Boutique. Enjoy Lavender Dinners and sip lavender cocktails.

FOOD & DRINK

As the only cut-to-order artisan cheese destination in the Triangle area of North Carolina – and one of the few in the Southeast – **The Cheese Shop** is set to expand into their first standalone retail store and new cheese bar. Slated to open in Summer 2024, The Cheese Shop will expand their current operation from just 80-square feet in Carrboro’s Glasshalfull restaurant to 1800-square-feet at 100B Brewer Lane in the Carolina Car Wash Building, which is also home to Belltree Cocktail Club. In addition to their sprawling cheese case, where customers can taste and select their favorite wedges cut and wrapped-to-order, the new location will boast an extensive menu of cheese plates, sandwiches, soups, salads and provisions, as well as a 15-seat cheese bar dedicated to special meals, events, and tastings. This cheese-focused specialty store will feature provisions, wine, beer, and gifts, as well as a setting for classes. Since opening in March 2023, The Cheese Shop has become the area’s go-to source for exceptional and rare local, domestic and imported small batch cheeses. From their popular “Speakcheesy Secret Supper” Club, to Cheese of the Month Club, catered cheese and charcuterie boards, restaurant wholesale and a national shipping program, Cheesemonger Stevie Webb has proven there is an appetite for his unique expertise and exceptional cheese selection.

In Chapel Hill, **Bombolo** blends old and new world dining and *Eater Carolinas* names it one of the 12 Hottest Restaurants in the Triangle that opened in 2023. Mexican Bistro **Ay Por Dios** is open on West Franklin Street.

The **Garden Spot** is tucked behind Lantern Restaurant at 423 W. Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. The space, once an empty parking lot, is lined with beds of flowers, plants and contains a long gazebo, stage, tables, and bar. The plan is to do four residencies per year, each running between three and six weeks long, featuring four different vendors who are either just getting started and looking for an opportunity to test out a new concept, or looking to explore what it would be like to move into brick and mortar. Focus on businesses that are run by people of color, women and the LGBTQ community.

New Brewery opened in August 2023 in Hillsborough, NC. **Eno River Brewing** fronts the Eno River and Riverwalk. See inside brewery and taproom, an outdoor covered patio beer garden, an expansive lawn facing the Riverwalk and food truck. Open daily except Wednesdays. **New events at Botanist & Barrel** in northern Orange County which crafts real southern ciders, fruit ciders and wines all on an organic estate fruit farm. Ciders and wines are raw, wild, unfiltered, unfiltered and unpasteurized. Apple Festival, Fermentation Festival, tours and tastings. Home to Carrboro’s Steel String Brewery’s production facility, is the **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, festivals, rolling pastures, plus a disc golf course on the mountains to the sea trail.