24 Hours in Raleigh
How to make the most out of 24 hours in North Carolina’s capital city!

Where to Stay

The Casso
Located between the Glenwood South and Warehouse Districts in downtown Raleigh, this incredibly-stylish and modern full-service property opened in March 2021. The vibrant 126-room, seven-story boutique hotel with locally-inspired décor includes event space and a plant-forward restaurant called Good Day Good Night.

AC Hotel Raleigh Downtown
Glenwood South’s newest hotel blends European soul with a Southern perspective. 2021. The 146-room Summit Hospitality project is a stylish, urban hotel and includes the rooftop Willard Lounge with two outdoor terraces and indoor restaurant space serving tapas and craft cocktails. Opened late-September 2021.

The Umstead Hotel and Spa
Five Star and Five Diamond independently owned hotel drawing inspiration from art and nature. The property features stunning interiors punctuated with privately curated fine art, 150 spacious guest rooms and suites, world-class cuisine, a stimulating spa and a serene woodland setting. In late 2020, the hotel completed a $14 million total renovation of its rooms, corridors, bar, lounge and Herons restaurant.

Morning
Experience why Raleigh’s known as the Smithsonian of the South (all free to visit)

CAM Raleigh
The Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh’s Warehouse District showcases constantly changing exhibits that explore what’s current and coming in the art and design world. CAM’s goal is for visitors and the community to be inspired by and engage with the art.

NC Museum of History
A journey through the past of NC’s history so that others, natives and visitors can learn of the lives our ancestors lived. Also includes the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame on the third floor.

NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Largest natural science museum in the Southeast with four floors of exhibits, live animals, 3D movies, gift stores and two cafes. The museum includes a Nature Research Center which is a mixture of a visitor destination, research hub and hands-on student laboratory.

Breakfast

Big Ed's City Market Restaurant
If you’re craving something down-home and Southern for breakfast, Big Ed’s City Market Restaurant is the place to be. Known for hotcakes bigger than your hands, Big Ed’s in City Market is the perfect spot for breakfast. Antiques and farm equipment hang from the ceiling, adding to the unique Southern charm of this Raleigh institution.

Benchwarmers Bagels at Transfer Co. Food Hall
Wood-fired bagels and craft coffee can be found at this collaboration between Raleigh’s beloved Boulted Bread and Jubala Coffee. This is not your average bagel shop as the chef-driven menu includes cured lox with deviled egg spread.

Lunch

Beasley’s Chicken + Honey
James Beard Foundation winning chef Ashley Christensen’s low-key spot, there’s nothing more Southern than fried chicken paired with champagne. Open for lunch or dinner.

Sam Jones BBQ
Third-generation pitmaster and James Beard semifinalist Sam Jones’ newest namesake eatery in downtown Raleigh. Rooted in the tradition of NC whole-hog barbecue and tried-and-true Southern staples.

Year of BBQ:
Pitmasters across the state are converging on Raleigh to make it the BBQ Capital of NC. Three BBQ joints have opened this year, with more on the way!
Raleigh Denim Workshop
Created from an 1858 Italianate-style historic mansion in the Boylan Heights neighborhood, this majestic property has been lovingly restored. The property includes nine ensuite guest rooms. This National and Raleigh Historic Landmark is one of the few remaining pre-civil war houses in the area.

New: The Parlor, a Italian influenced craft cocktail bar with an all-Italian wine list and local beers.

More than 5,000 works of art spanning from antiquity to present day make up the bulk of masterpieces at NCMA, plus the largest museum art park in the country. Museum Park’s 160+ acres include a vast trail system and 30 works of art surrounding the outside of the museum and along the trails and greenway paths.

Explore Raleigh’s Warehouse District

Raleigh Denim Workshop
Artisan denim brand that uses vintage machines to create limited runs of men’s and women’s jeans.

Heirloom Brewshop
Heirloom offers guests a solace from the hustle and bustle of the city at this Asian-inspired sanctuary offering coffee, tea, sake and food.

Poole's Diner
A trip to the City of Oaks isn’t complete without visiting James Beard Award-winning chef Ashley Christensen’s flagship restaurant Poole’s. The ever-changing chalkboard menu features seasonal vegetables as well as local meat products.

Night Cap
Bittersweet
Dessert, coffee and cocktail bar.

Watts & Ward
One of the largest underground speakeasies in the Southeast.

Now Open
Heights House Hotel & The Parlor
Created from an 1858 Italianate-style historic mansion in the Boylan Heights neighborhood, this majestic property has been lovingly restored. The property includes nine ensuite guest rooms. This National and Raleigh Historic Landmark is one of the few remaining pre-civil war houses in the area. New: The Parlor, a Italian influenced craft cocktail bar with an all-Italian wine list and local beers.

Happy Hour
Raleigh Beer Garden
Guinness World Record holder for most beer on tap and largest selection of beer on draught in the world.

Trophy Brewing Company
Awarded craft brewery with wild and sour beer program and weekly beer releases.

Dinner
Cortez
Oscar Diaz’s fresh seafood and cocktail restaurant with Mexican influence. Sourcing from local fisherman the menu offers a rotating selection of fresh oysters and sources responsibly caught seafood.

For more information, contact:
Jessica Holt, Director of Public Relations and International Tourism
919.645.2654 • jholt@visitRaleigh.com

North Carolina Freedom Park
A long-planned park aiming to honor the African American struggle for freedom and liberty for all broke ground in late 2020 just a few blocks from the N.C. State Capitol. The park will include quotes from famous Black residents engraved around the space, and a large sculpture in the middle of the park will shine a light into the night sky (the Beacon of Freedom) to reflect the fire for freedom. Designed by internationally-known late architect Phil Freelon, expected to open in mid-2023.