

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO in Chapel Hill/Orange Co.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CAMPUS

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the first state-supported university in America, which was chartered in 1789. The 729-acre campus is now part of a 16-unit statewide system and has an enrollment of 28,000 students, with a 3,300-member faculty. It is both beautiful and historic.

FRANKLIN STREET DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL

Sports Illustrated has said that Chapel Hill is the best college town in America, and Franklin Street (named after Benjamin Franklin) is one reason why. With more than 300 diverse businesses, "Franklin Street" is the heart of town, where the famous have walked, the famous and not-so-famous have celebrated great sports victories and many more have been entertained simply by strolling its length to see and be seen.



A SOUTHERN SEASON GOURMET EMPORIUM

What started out as a tiny coffee roastery in 1975 has grown into a 60,000-sq.ft. landmark gourmet food and kitchen accessories marketplace that New York Times food critic Craig Claiborne referred to as "wall to wall and floor to ceiling, a visual and gustatory delight."

CARR MILL MALL & WEAVER STREET MARKET

Carrboro is the kind of small southern town where the past and the present seem to be fused together. Weaver Street Market is the heart of Carrboro. It's the place to gather, to meet, to shop. Fittingly, it's just in front of the old Carr Mill building, a relic from an industrial past, in the present serving as a shopping mall full of eclectic stores. Down the street, The ArtsCenter is one-stop-shopping for anything about the arts. Next-door is the Cat's Cradle, the institution that helped the area earn its designation as the "next Seattle" when it comes to the music scene.



HISTORIC HILLSBOROUGH

Hillsborough, just fifteen miles from Chapel Hill, has more than 100 late 18th century and early 19th century buildings, including the beautifully restored Ayr Mount Historic Site (c.1815); the Old County Courthouse (1844), cited by the Library of Congress as one of the finest Greek Revival structures; and the Orange County Historical Museum. Hillsborough was the scene of many important events during the Revolutionary and Civil War periods, and home to a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Today, Hillsborough is a writers' colony that boasts many award winners. Here you'll also find flea market treasures, unique jewelry and home goods stores, gourmet restaurants, coffee shops and pastoral views.

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Jeffery Camarati, UNC Athletic Communications

CAROLINA BASKETBALL MUSEUM

This 8,000 square foot museum features a “Game Day” theme where visitors enter a theater for pre-game build-up, then into the main museum space where they can visit interactive displays and view memorabilia from Carolina’s storied program on the UNC court. The museum features more than 450 artifacts, videos, photos, stats and historical panels that highlight the history of the Carolina Basketball program, which began nearly a century ago.

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY AND MEMORIAL HALL

Founded in 1975, PlayMakers is North Carolina’s premier not-for-profit professional theatre company, performing six different plays from October to April in its intimate Paul Green Theatre on the UNC campus. In addition, Memorial Hall, built in 1885, rebuilt in 1931 and renovated in 2005 at a cost of \$18-million, hosts world-renowned performers, events and elegant ceremonies.

Other popular performance venues include the Cat’s Cradle and The ArtsCenter in Carrboro, plus many small nightclubs. In fact, the Squirrel Nut Zippers, Superchunk, Archers of Loaf, James Taylor, Southern Culture on the Skids and Ben Folds Five are among the notable musical acts whose careers began in Chapel Hill.



Jon Gardiner, PlayMakers Repertory Co.

NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The largest natural botanical garden in the southeast consists of nearly 800 acres of preserved land with nature trails, carnivorous plant collections, aquatics and herb gardens, and revolving exhibits of artwork with a horticultural theme. The garden also administers the historic Coker Arboretum, established in 1903, and the recently upgraded 93-acre Battle Park, established in the late 1800s by University President Kemp Plummer Battle, known as “the Southern Thoreau.”



ACKLAND ART MUSEUM

Ackland exhibitions present a wide stylistic range, from contemporary American photography to European master paintings, video installations to Early Modern portraits. A walk through the Ackland can be an introduction to Peter Paul Rubens, Eugene Delacroix and Andy Warhol — all in the same day.

NEARLY 300 RESTAURANTS, BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

Ah, but the food... With about 120,000 residents, Orange County has one of the largest concentrations of diverse, multi-ethnic restaurants, eating places, bars, breweries, lounges, nightclubs, pubs and sports bars in the country: about one for every 435 people!



Head of Buddha, Ackland Art Museum

Chapel Hill
WITH CARRBORO & HILLSBOROUGH
The Feeling Never Leaves You

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau

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www.visitchapelhill.org