# Visiting the Triangle (Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill)

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## Websites

Raleigh Visitors Bureau: <https://www.visitraleigh.com/things-to-do/>

Discover Durham: <https://www.discoverdurham.com/>

Visit Chapel Hill: <https://www.visitchapelhill.org/things-to-do/>

History of Research Triangle Park: <https://www.rtp.org/history/>

## Tours

### Raleigh

**Raleigh**: <https://raleighnc.gov/education-and-learning/services/self-guided-walking-tours>

**Historic Raleigh Trolley**   
<https://raleighnc.gov/parks-and-recreation/services/historic-resources-and-museum-program/historic-raleigh-trolley>

**Oakwood Historic District**– NC’s largest intact 19th century residential neighborhood   
<https://www.historicoakwood.org/walking-tour/>

### Chapel Hill

**Free Walking Tours** with tour guide Sally Smith  
<http://www.freewalkingtourschapelhill.com/>

## Historic & Noteworthy Sites

### Raleigh

**Mordecai Historic Park & House**   
The Mordecai House is the oldest house in Raleigh in its original location.  
<https://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Parks/Mordecai.html>

**Oakwood Cemetery**<https://historicoakwoodcemetery.org/about-us/>

**Raleigh National Cemetery** - established in 1865 for burial of Union soldiers   
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/Raleigh.asp>

**NC Executive Mansion**The Executive Mansion was completed in 1891 and is one of the state's finest examples of the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture.   
<https://www.dncr.nc.gov/visit/history/triangletriad/north-carolina-executive-mansion>

**NC State Capitol**   
The North Carolina State Capitol, completed in 1840, is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of a major civic building in the Greek Revival style of architecture.  
<https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/north-carolina-state-capitol>

**NC Legislative Building** – tours available; nice photo op on the grand staircase; cafeteria in the basement  
<https://www.ncleg.gov/About/VisitorInfo>

**Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral**   
Roman Catholic Cathedral opened in 2017  
<http://raleighcathedral.org/content.cfm?id=644>

### Durham

**Duke University Chapel**Located at the center of Duke University campus, this ecumenical Christian chapel was built in 1935 in the Greek Revival style and is today considered the symbol of Duke University.  
<http://chapel.duke.edu/>

**Bennett Place**Fascinating Civil War historic site marking one of the final surrenders of the Civil War.  
<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/>

**Duke Homestead**Historic site, early home, factory and farm of William Duke and overview of the history of tobacco in North Carolina   
<https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/duke-homestead>

**Historic Stagville**Remnants of one of the largest plantations of the pre-Civil War south; focus on the lives of enslaved people.  
<http://www.stagville.org/>

## Gardens

### Raleigh

**J. C. Raulston Arboretum**   
The JC Raulston Arboretum is a nationally acclaimed botanic garden located in Raleigh, North Carolina with one of the largest and most expansive collections of landscape plants adapted for landscape use in the southeast United States.   
<http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum>

**WRAL Azalea Gardens**Located conveniently behind the WRAL television studios and between the Main and Centennial campuses of North Carolina State University, the gardens offer a peaceful oasis and stunning views in the midst of the city's hustle and bustle.<https://www.wral-gardens.com/>

**Juniper Level Botanical Garden**The mission of Juniper Level Botanic Garden is to promote botanical diversity by assembling the largest collection possible of growable, winter/summer hardy ornamental plants for our region and display them in an aesthetic, sustainably-maintained, healthy garden setting. With 10+ acres of public display gardens, JLBG nurtures an unparalleled diversity of zone 7B cold hardy plants.  
<https://www.juniperlevelbotanicgarden.org/>

### Durham

**Sarah P. Duke Garden**The 55 acres of gardens lie at the heart of Duke University campus. The garden features four distinct areas: the original Terraces and their immediate surroundings, known as the [Historic Gardens](https://gardens.duke.edu/visit/gardens/historic-gardens); the [H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants](https://gardens.duke.edu/visit/gardenst/blomquist-garden-of-native-plants), a representation of the flora of the Southeastern United States; the [W.L. Culberson Asiatic Arboretum](https://gardens.duke.edu/gardens/culberson-asiatic-arboretum), devoted to plants of eastern Asia; and the [Doris Duke Center Gardens](https://gardens.duke.edu/visit/gardens/doris-duke-center-gardens), including the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.  
<https://gardens.duke.edu/>

### Chapel Hill

**NC Botanical Garden**Conservation garden and nature trails  
<http://ncbg.unc.edu/>

**Lavendar Oaks Farm**Our lavender blooms from mid-May through July, but there may be blooms all the way to September. Lunch & Learn group tours available but must be booked well in advance.  
<https://lavenderoaks.farm/>

## Museums

### Raleigh

**N C Museum of History** (temporarily closed for renovations)[**https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/**](https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/)

**N C Museum of Natural Sciences and Nature Research Center**  
<https://naturalsciences.org/>

**COR (City of Raleigh) Museum**   
<https://cityofraleighmuseum.org/Default#WWD>

**CAM (Contemporary Art Museum)**CAM Raleigh is the non-collecting contemporary art museum that provides an environment for transformation through educational programs, cultural experiences, and bold, non-traditional exhibitions by living artists.  
<https://camraleigh.org/about/>

**NC Museum of Art**NCMA houses the state art collection with galleries spanning 5000 years. The 164 acre Museum Park offers walking and biking trails, art installations and a terraced pond.  
Judaic Art Gallery **–** just one of two art museums in the country with a permanent collection of Jewish ceremonial art.  
<https://ncartmuseum.org/>

**Randleigh Dairy Heritage Museum**  
The Randleigh Dairy Heritage Museum is a unique agritourism experience for children and adults to learn how wholesome milk gets from the farm to the table.  
<https://howlingcow.ncsu.edu/randleigh-dairy-heritage-museum/>

### Durham

**Nasher Museum of Art**The museum’s collection strategy emphasizes works by diverse artists who have been historically underrepresented.  
<https://nasher.duke.edu/>

**Cameron Indoor Stadium and Duke Basketball museum**<https://goduke.com/feature/Tours>

### Chapel Hill

**Carolina Basketball Museum**<https://goheels.com/news/2017/6/26/general-carolina-basketball-museum.aspx>

**Ackland Art Museum**  
The Ackland’s holdings include significant collections of European masterworks, 20th-century and contemporary art, African art, and North Carolina pottery. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina’s premier collections of Asian art and works on paper.  
<https://ackland.org/>

## Area Universities

### Raleigh

**NC State University - Centennial Campus and James B Hunt Jr. Library -** State of the art research center and library worth a drive through; brochure available for self-guided tour of Hunt Library; at least walk in and see the “bookBot” in action.<http://centennial.ncsu.edu/>  
https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/hunt/bookbot

### Durham

**Duke University**  
Guided tours restricted to prospective students; self-guided tours available  
<https://admissions.duke.edu/visit/>

**Duke Lemur Center**Founded in 1966 on the campus of Duke University in Durham, NC, the Duke Lemur Center is a world leader in the study, care, and protection of lemurs—Earth’s most threatened group of mammals. With more than 200 animals across 13 species, the DLC houses the world’s most diverse population of lemurs outside their native Madagascar.   
<https://lemur.duke.edu/>

### Chapel Hill

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**First Public University in the U. S. – Chartered in 1789   
<http://unc.edu/>  
<https://visitorsguide.unc.edu/unc-visitors-guide-2023/welcome>

**Historic murals** in the UNC School of Government  
14 murals celebrating development of NC plus additional very large mural highlighting African American history in NC  
<https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/about/historic-murals-school-government>

**Morehead Planetarium**   
<http://moreheadplanetarium.org/>

## Food & Shopping

### Raleigh

**NCSU Howling Cow Ice Cream** available at Common Grounds Café and Creamery on the first floor of the Hunt Library; also available in the Talley Student Union and in local grocery stores  
<https://howlingcow.ncsu.edu/>

**North Carolina State Farmers Market**   
You can expect to find fresh produce from around the country here as well as meats, cheeses, crafts, bakery items, ice cream, coffee, custom picture framing, a market grill and N.C. wines. There is a wide variety of specialty shops with old-fashioned candies, N.C. gifts, soaps and lotions.  
<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/marketing/farmers-markets-agricultural-centers/state-farmers-market-raleigh>  
Breakfast or Lunch at Farmers Market Restaurant or Seafood Restaurant at the Market  
 [www.realbiscuits.com](http://www.realbiscuits.com/)  
 [www.ncseafood.com](http://www.ncseafood.com/)

**Warehouse District**  
Six blocks of iconic, red-brick, former-industrial buildings in downtown Raleigh house restaurants, breweries, a chocolate factory and the Raleigh Denim workshop.  
<https://www.visitraleigh.com/plan-a-trip/cities-and-towns/raleigh/downtown-raleigh/warehouse-district/>

* **The Pit BBQ**  
  <https://www.thepit-raleigh.com/>
* **Videri Chocolate Factory**<https://viderichocolatefactory.com/>
* **Raleigh Denim Workshop**  
  <https://raleighdenim.com/pages/who-we-are>
* **Morgan Street Food Hall**  
  <https://www.morganfoodhall.com/>

**Raleigh Beer Garden**over 386 beers on tap, Hop Shots mini-golf  
<https://theraleighbeergarden.com/>

**Goodberry’s Frozen Custard**All-natural homemade custard with your choice of mix-ins.  
various locations around the Triangle  
<https://www.goodberrys.com/>  
<https://youtu.be/tRpMtIifM68>

**Krispy Kreme**   
A NC original – Check for “hot light” hours when the donuts are being made. <https://www.krispykreme.com/location/raleigh>

**Cedar Creek Gallery**   
Located in Creedmoor, NC, the gallery features work from our onsite potters and glass blowers as well as local, regional and national artisans.  In addition to pottery and glass you will find exquisite handcrafted jewelry, wood, garden art, metal, children’s toys, soaps, candles and more.  
<https://cedarcreekgallery.com/>

### Durham

**American Tobacco Campus**The Historic District is part of a large [urban renewal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_renewal) project in downtown Durham. The campus had been the headquarters of the American Tobacco Company, once the largest manufacturer of cigarettes in the United States.  
<https://americantobacco.co/about-our-campus/>

**Ninth Street**Durham’s “Greenwich Village”- a unique, walkable district with a rich history and a friendly neighborhood feel.  
<https://www.discover9thstreet.com/>

**Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club**  
Afternoon tea at the Fairview Restaurant  
<https://www.washingtondukeinn.com/durham-fine-dining/afternoon-tea>

**Riverwood Orchids**Orchid greenhouse and nursery  
[**https://www.facebook.com/p/Riverwood-Orchids-Farm-100063782364335/**](https://www.facebook.com/p/Riverwood-Orchids-Farm-100063782364335/)

**The Streets at Southpoint Mall**   
<http://www.streetsatsouthpoint.com/>

**Bennett Pointe Grill**  
<https://www.bpgrill.com/>

### Chapel Hill

**Top of the Hill Restaurant and Brewery**A Carolina institution centrally located on Franklin Street. Affectionately referred to as ‘TopO’.[**https://www.thetopofthehill.com/**](https://www.thetopofthehill.com/)

**The Carolina Inn**  
Dining, bar and afternoon tea  
<https://www.carolinainn.com/restaurants-in-chapel-hill-nc>

**Fearrington Village** (in Pittsboro)Gardens, farm, fine dining at multiple restaurants, shops and afternoon tea  
<https://fearrington.com/the-fearrington-house-restaurant/>

## Parks & Outdoors Activities

### Raleigh

**Pullen Park**Pullen Park is the first public park in North Carolina, the 5th oldest operating amusement park in the U.S., and the 16th oldest in the world. Rent a pedal boat to explore the lake or ride the carousel.  
 <https://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Parks/Pullen.html>

**Dorothea Dix Park**  
Dorothea Dix Park is one of Raleigh's largest parks. The 308-acre site blends historic architecture and rich landscapes into a unique destination in the heart of Raleigh.    
<https://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec/Articles/Parks/DorotheaDixPark.html>

**Shelley Lake/Sertoma Arts center**The Shelley Lake trail is one of the most heavily used trails in Raleigh. Raleigh Arts has been working with local artists to add artwork along the trail.  
<https://raleighnc.gov/arts/places/sertoma-arts-center>  
<https://raleighnc.gov/arts/services/arts-centers/shelley-lake-trail-artwork>

**Capital Area Greenway Trail**   
System of 100+ miles of natural greenway trails. Some of the more popular include Lake Johnson, Shelley Lake, Lake Lynn and Neuse River Trails <http://www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/PRecDesignDevelop/Articles/CapitalAreaGreenwayTrailSystem.html>

**Historic Yates Mill County Park**The centerpiece of the 174-acre park is Historic Yates Mill, which is the last operable water-powered gristmill in Wake County.   
<https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/parks-recreation-open-space/all-parks-trails/historic-yates-mill-county-park/historic-yates-mill-programs-events/historic-yates-mill-historic-mill-tours>

**Historic Oak View County Park**The property’s history reflects the transition from an antebellum plantation to a system of farm management, sharecropping and tenant farming. The site also has two picnic shelters, fishing ponds, hiking trails, goats and chickens.  
<https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/parks-recreation-open-space/all-parks-trails/historic-oak-view-county-park/historic-oak-view-visitor-information>

**Jordan Lake**  
Jordan Lake State Recreation Area includes seven access areas that provide plenty of camping, boating, and swimming opportunities.  
history - <https://abc11.com/community-events/hidden-history-the-lost-community-beneath-jordan-lake/3833588/>

**William B. Umstead State Park**  
<https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/william-b-umstead-state-park>

### Durham

**Falls Lake**Falls Lake State Recreation Area provides seven access areas to the reservoir. Trails include a portion of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, as well as one of the premier mountain bike trail systems in the Triangle area  
<https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/falls-lake-state-recreation-area>

**Eno River State Park**<https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/eno-river-state-park>  
**Festival for the Eno** held around 4th of July each year  
<https://enofest.org/>

## Daytrips

### Pittsboro

**Carolina Tiger Rescue**<https://carolinatigerrescue.org/>

### Wilson

**Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park**  
<https://www.wilsonwhirligigpark.org/visiting-the-park/>

**Wilson Rose Garden**  
<http://wilsonrosegarden.org/>

**Freeman Roundhouse Museu**m  
<http://www.theroundhousemuseum.com/>

### Smithfield

**Ava Gardner Museum**   
costumes, movie posters and awards that represent Ava’s 50-year career as one of Hollywood’s most glamorous screen stars who was born and grew up in rural North Carolina  
<http://www.avagardner.org/>  
<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g49541-d102767-Reviews-Ava_Gardner_Museum-Smithfield_North_Carolina.html>

### Bailey

**The Country Doctor Museum**  
<http://www.countrydoctormuseum.org/index.cfm>

### Kenly

**The Tobacco Farm Life Museum**  
a restored early twentieth-century farmstead, including eight buildings - <http://www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org/>  
<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g49254-d620517-Reviews-Tobacco_Farm_Life_Museum-Kenly_North_Carolina.html>

### Asheboro

**North Carolina Zoological Park**Large natural habitat Zoo (about 2-hour drive from Raleigh)  
 <http://www.nczoo.org>

Seagrove/Jugtown (near Asheboro)  
“Handmade pottery center of the U.S.,” A center of NC traditional pottery that has grown to approximately 50 studios and shops  
<https://discoverseagrove.com/>

**NC Pottery Center**  
 <http://ncpotterycenter.org/>

### Cameron

**Aloha Safari Park**home to over 400 rescued animals that have found a forever home. <https://www.alohasafaripark.com/>

### Bynum

**Bynum Front Porch** Bynum Front Porch music hosts music every 3rd Friday Night.  The indoor stage will be alive with music from 7 til 9 pm.    
<http://www.bynumfrontporch.org/events/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/bynumfrontporch/>

**Clyde Jones' Critter Crossing**Clyde Jones is a chainsaw artist who has been making his critters since 1982  
<http://www.carrboro.com/clyde/> ; <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/11595>; <http://www.strangecarolinas.com/2017/01/the-amazing-critters-of-clyde-jones.html>

### New Bern

Beautiful, historic river community - <http://www.visitnewbern.com/>

**Tryon Palace**  
Governor’s Palace historic site and gardens  
<http://www.tryonpalace.org>

### Winston-Salem

**Historic Old Salem**Moravian “living history” community  
<http://www.oldsalem.org/>

### Greensboro

**International Civil Rights Center and Museum**  
Located in the old Woolworth Building where the sit-in took place; traces the history of Civil Rights movement nationally and in North Carolina  
<http://www.sitinmovement.org/>