

SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOURS

WONDERING HOW TO EXPLORE THE AREA, on your own, in your vehicle? This will help and for additional guidance, refer to the pull-out maps in the standard Chapel Hill Orange County Visitors Guide for road details.

If you're here in a car, these two tours will help you explore what this stretch of North Carolina is all about.

The Historic Chapel Hill Tour can be done in half an hour without stops, but you will find prompts for good places to get out and absorb several aspects of Chapel Hill's unique atmosphere.

The Chapel Hill-Hillsborough-Carrboro Tour provides more Chapel Hill history and a lovely drive in the rural and pastoral areas of Orange County, both to and from historic Hillsborough with its many charms; plus an introduction to former mill town grown into hip town, Carrboro.

HISTORIC CHAPEL HILL TOUR

1 100 Block, East Franklin Street

The village of Chapel Hill started here as the university was created. The first intersection was at Columbia and Franklin Streets, which create the west and north boundaries of campus. The main business district in the 100 block has been bustling since the 1790s.

2 McCorkle Place

South of the Henderson Street intersection, this quadrangle includes the historic Davie Poplar tree and extends to the Old Well and the first buildings of the university, on Cameron Avenue.

3 Morehead Planetarium

250 East Franklin Street, 919.962.1236

The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, built in 1947, is one of the oldest and largest in the country.

4 Chapel of the Cross

304 East Franklin Street, 919.929.2193

The oldest remaining Chapel on the Hill, built in 1842, the Gothic Revival architecture was carried through with the second chapel in 1925; and a third structure, 2014.

5 Coker Arboretum

Five acres of botanical beauty developed since 1903 by William Chambers Coker, the first Professor of Botany at UNC, maintained by the N.C. Botanical Garden. It is to the left of the planetarium and behind the church.

6 University President's House

400 East Franklin Street

Built in 1907, after earlier house burned down.

7 Hooper-Kyser House

504 East Franklin Street

Built in 1814 by the grandson of William Hooper, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; former home of Kay Kyser and Georgia Carroll.

8 Horace Williams House

610 East Rosemary Street

If interested in a walking/rolling tour, park here and pick up a brochure inside for a two-block tour on the historic district.



9 Gimghoul Neighborhood and Castle

The first neighborhood developed outside of the “village” from 1922–30s, includes a medieval castle, completed in 1927. Drive slowly around the circular driveway at the end of the street (unless posted to keep out), to see the stone castle with its three-story battlemented parapet, the meeting place of a secret society.

10 Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

Cross over Country Club Road at Gimghoul Road to drive along the back side of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, taking the first left to exit onto South Road. There is parking on both long sides of the cemetery with a paved lane to walk/roll through its center. First recorded burial was a student in 1798.

11 Raleigh Road

Raleigh Road is the steepest of four roads which demonstrate the “hill”—the Eastern edge of the Piedmont—where the university was built. Raleigh Road descends east, becoming NC 54 (the first paved road in the state), and leads to Raleigh.

12 Quail Hill

Halfway down Raleigh Road, Quail Hill, built in the 1960s, became home of the university chancellor in 1995. Down a long, winding driveway, it may be slightly visible off the south side of the road during winter months.

13 North Carolina Botanical Garden

100 Old Mason Farm Road

With public offerings since Arbor Day 1966, and an environmentally sustainable and highly accessible education center, this is a recommended place for catching fresh air and natural beauty year-round.

14 Carolina Basketball Museum

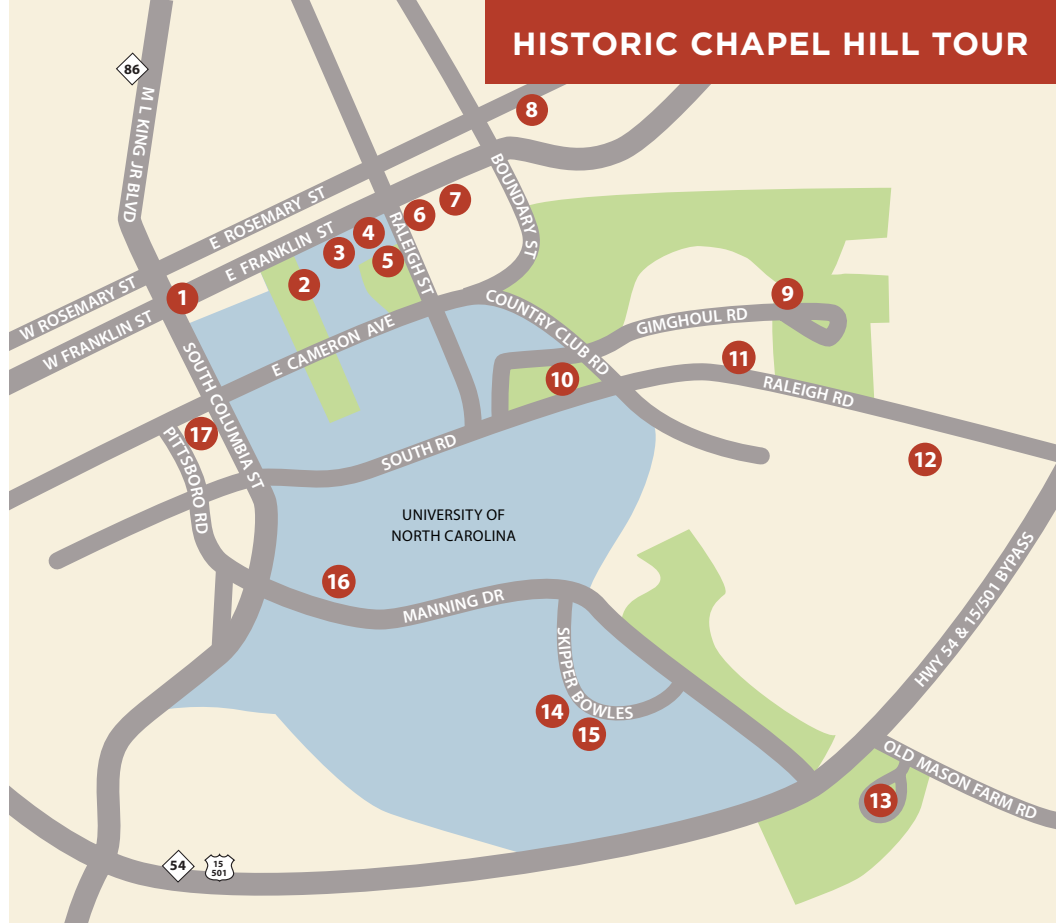
450 Skipper Bowles Drive

Tar Heel basketball fans will love this museum.

15 Dean Smith Center

300 Skipper Bowles Drive

The first game played in the Dean Smith Center was on January 18, 1986, between the #1 UNC team and #3 Duke. Both teams entered unbeaten until UNC christened the 300,000 square-foot structure with



a 95–92 victory for their beloved coach. If the doors are open, you might catch a Tar Heel practice or find summer camp attendees shooting it out.

16 UNC Hospitals

101 Manning Drive

Opened as NC Memorial Hospital in September 1952, five hospitals on the site now serve all 100 counties of North Carolina.

17 The Carolina Inn

211 Pittsboro Street

Built on the western boundary of the university in 1924 by John Sprunt Hill (class of 1889) on the site of the original “Chapel on the Hill,” for which the town was named. The address is Pittsboro Street, but it can also be seen on South Columbia Street nearing Cameron Street.

