

MEDIA FACTS & FIGURES

CITIES

Chapel Hill was named after the New Hope Chapel, which stood upon a hill at the crossing of two primary roads. Chapel Hill is nicknamed “the Southern Part of Heaven” and is best known as the home of the University of North Carolina, our nation’s first state university. Town lots were auctioned in 1793, when work began on the university’s first building. Along Franklin Street, the town’s center of activity, visitors will find foods to please every palate, specialty shops for the most discriminating shopper and a variety of nightlife.

Adjacent to Chapel Hill is the community of **Carrboro**. This charming community began its proud history in 1882 when a spur from the Durham-Greensboro Southern Railway line was extended to link university students with the outside world. The town was named after Julian Carr,

owner of the local hosiery mill and was incorporated in 1911, so it celebrates its centennial in 2011. Carrboro features unique retail stores, restaurants and a growing arts community. It is home to the famous Cat’s Cradle.

Historic **Hillsborough**, founded in 1754, celebrated its 260th anniversary in 2014. It is located about 15 minutes northwest of Chapel Hill and was laid out where the Great Indian Trading Path crossed the Eno River. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the central district boasts over one hundred late 18th and early 19th century structures. Hillsborough was the site of the momentous Constitutional Convention of 1788, where delegates demanded a Bill of Rights before they would ratify the U.S. Constitution. Today, Hillsborough encompasses quaint residential areas as well as unique antique and craft shopping.

POPULATION

Orange County is home to 141,599 residents. Chapel Hill has a population of 59,753, Carrboro has 20,534 and Hillsborough is home to 6,326 people (2016 statistics).

LOCATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Orange County, located in the Triangle region in the central part of North Carolina, is nestled approximately midway between Washington, DC, and Atlanta, GA. Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill make up the three sides of the Triangle.

Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is 20 miles east. Greyhound and Carolina Trailways provide bus service to nearby towns. Major highways include Interstates 40 (east and west) and 85 (north and south), US Highways 15-501 and NC Highways 49, 54, 57, 86 and 157. Chapel Hill Transit bus service is fare-free throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

CLIMATE

Summers range from the mid 60’s to the high 80’s; Fall sees high 40’s to the low 70’s; Winter ranges from high 20’s to the low 50’s and Spring has mid 40 to low 70 temperatures. The annual average high is 71, while the average low is 47. The average annual rainfall is 46.24 inches, with the annual snowfall at 5.3 inches.



Franklin Street, Chapel Hill

SPORTS & LEISURE

- Dean E. Smith Center hosts UNC men's basketball, (21,750), concerts and various other events.
- Kenan Memorial Stadium, with its beautiful Charlie Justice Hall of Honor, is the home of Carolina football.
- Orange County Sportsplex, with its NHL-size ice rink, offers ice skating, swimming, weight training and aerobics.
- North Carolina High School Athletic Association in Chapel Hill hosts various statewide championship games, including football and basketball.
- Orange County offers a wide variety of leisure activities, including biking, bowling, canoeing, fishing, hiking, skateboarding, rock wall climbing, swimming and more.
- Two public golf courses, including the award-winning UNC Finley Golf Course designed by Tom Fazio.
- There's a wealth of parks and greenways.
- University of North Carolina Tar Heels participates in 28 men and women's sports. UNC has fielded 43 NCAA Championship teams.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEETING FACILITIES

Within Orange County, there are roughly 1,793 guestrooms (1,760 hotel rooms). Visitors can find full-service and limited-service hotels, bed & breakfast inns, extended stay lodging and farm stays.. Chapel Hill is home to two of the seven AAA® Four Diamond hotels (excluding B&Bs) in the Triangle. Room tax is 3% for accommodations in Orange County and 6% for accommodations in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Carrboro (3% county + 3% municipality). The sales tax is 7.5%.

There are numerous meeting and event facilities. In addition to the function space in area hotels, there are venues including historic sites, museums, a secluded retreat center, a rustic convention center and preserved natural areas. Our facilities can accommodate small- to medium-size groups with up to 350 attendees.

SELECT VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

- Southern Season (*One of the largest gourmet specialty shops in the country*)
- Ackland Art Museum
- Alexander Dickson House/Hillsborough Guided Tours
- ArtsCenter in Carrboro
- Ayr Mount Historic Site
- Burwell School Historic Site
- Carolina Basketball Museum
- Carr Mill Mall
- Farmers Markets (Carrboro, Chapel Hill & Hillsborough)
- Franklin Street
- Horace Williams House
- Kidzu Children's Museum
- Memorial Hall & CURRENT
- Montrose Gardens
- Morehead Planetarium and Science Center
- North Carolina Botanical Garden
- North Carolina Collection Gallery
- Orange County Historical Museum
- PlayMakers Repertory Company
- TOPO Distillery Tour
- University Place

MAJOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Bikefest: The Rural Heritage Tour
- Carolina Jazz Festival
- Carrboro Day
- Carrboro Film Festival
- Carrboro Music Festival
- Chapel Hill Holiday Home Tour
- LIGHTUP Lantern Festival
- Festifall street fair
- Hog Day
- Hillsborough Holiday Home Tour
- Orange County Open Art Studio Tour
- Piedmont Farm Tour
- Sculpture in the Garden
- Spring Garden Tours
- TerraVITA Food & Drink Festival
- Twelve Days of Christmas

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau

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