



Chapel Hill, NC (College Town Experience: Music, Art, Shopping and Farm-to-Table Food)

2- Day Itinerary

Day One

ARRIVE MID-DAY FOR LUNCH

Lunch at [Weathervane](#) at Southern Season. Led by award winning Chef Bo Peterson, offers sophisticated Southern fare for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. The menus focus on local food producers such as Johnston County Hams from Smithfield, North Carolina to daily offerings from local farmer's markets or artisans featured on Southern Season's shelves.

After lunch tour the 60,000 square foot gourmet emporium, [Southern Season](#). It's the South's premiere specialty food marketplace and has been a Chapel Hill Landmark since 1975. Featuring over 70,000 unique products, including a huge North Carolina products section, an expansive cooking school, ice cream shop and wine tasting area. It is truly a food lover's paradise with tasty souvenirs to take home. Take time to wander [University Place](#).

Guided or Self-Guided Tour of the UNC-Chapel Hill Historic Campus. UNC is the oldest public university in the country. Tour from the UNC Visitors' Center. www.unc.edu

Next, head downtown and stroll up **Franklin Street** for shopping, the heart of downtown. There are numerous clothing, jewelry, books, comics and memorabilia shops. Make sure to visit [FRANK Art Gallery](#) –art co-op featuring numerous regional and local artists. Historic [Julian's](#) clothing store has been in business since 1942. Check out the wall of photos. Take in [Ackland Art Museum](#) (at the corner of Franklin and Columbia) with permanent collection of more than 17,000 works of art, featuring North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works of art on paper as well as significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, and North Carolina pottery. Stop by the Ackland Museum Store, the museum's retail outlet. Try an afternoon treat at [Sutton's Drug Store](#) is an old fashioned soda fountain on Franklin Street serving shakes and cherry cokes since 1923 and check out the wall of photos. Or enjoy a cupcake or Gelato at [Sugarland](#).

Be on the lookout for the coming [Blue Dogwood Public Market](#) at 360 West Franklin Street. This new public market, a food hall is a new place with 15 or so vendor to celebrate local food.

WHERE TO STAY

Check in at [The Carolina Inn](#) in the heart of downtown. The **Carolina Inn**, by Destination Hotels & Resorts, featuring 185 charming and well-appointed guestrooms and suites. Hotel recently completed a \$19 million renovation and the newly renovated [Crossroads Chapel Hill Restaurant](#) is a must visit. From late April through mid- October, this iconic inn features Fridays on the Front Porch, with live music, food trucks, beverage specials, and comfortable seating on the shady front porch. Holiday season brings 12 Days of Christmas. If it's full, [The Siena Hotel](#) or [The Franklin Hotel](#) are alternatives.

EVENING

Dine at the Inn's new [Crossroads Chapel Hill Restaurant](#) is a must visit. Expansive seating, bar, TV's outdoor dining, fire pit. Authentic Carolina cuisine, handcrafted cocktails and exemplary service in a new-look luxurious yet relaxed atmosphere.



Other dining options downtown including Farm-to-Table James Beard Winners Pan Asian [Lantern](#) and Shrimp & Grits at [Crook's Corner](#).

After dinner, if you are open for more fun, loosen up with the locals at [The Crunkleton](#), or check out the live music options at [Cat's Cradle](#) in Carrboro. Bringing premier live music in an intimate setting to the Triangle from more than 40 years, Cat's Cradle has been a hotbed of up-and-coming and iconic bands as diverse as Nirvana, Public Enemy, John Mayer, Joan Baez and Iggy Pop. If into nostalgia, [The Baxter Bar and Arcade](#) visit with its 50 vintage and original video games off of West Franklin Street at N. Graham Street.

Day Two

MORNING

Head to [Weaver Street Market](#) in adjacent Carrboro. It's the largest food co-op (membership not required) in the Southeast and a great place to check out local foods – and locals. It has a wonderful inviting lawn with picnic tables to enjoy the outdoors.

After Breakfast Head to the [Carrboro Farmers' Market \(if Saturday Morning\)](#). Touted as one of the finest local markets in the country, the Carrboro Farmers' Market has provided an opportunity for local farmers to sell their products directly to the consumer since 1979.

Drop by the 8,000 square foot [Carolina Basketball Museum](#) with interactive exhibits and memorabilia. (Weekday hours, 10 am – 4 pm and Saturday Hours 9 am – 1 pm) next to the Dean Smith Center on the UNC Campus.

AFTERNOON

For lunch try an award winning burger at [Al's Burger Shack](#) on West Franklin Street. Garden & Gun named it one of the South's Best Burgers. Second location is opening in Southern Village.

If still want more of the great outdoors - Head to the [North Carolina Botanical Garden](#). See its herb gardens, carnivorous plants and southeast native plants. Garden is largest natural botanical garden in the Southeast and houses a 29,000 square foot LEED Platinum Education Center, one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the Southeast. **OR if you have the shopping bug try Carrboro's** Antique Shopping in [Carr Mill Mall](#), and [North Carolina Crafts Gallery](#) pottery and hand crafted gifts. From the unique to the bizarre check out [Cameron's](#) Gifts at the new 300 East Main Street development also in Carrboro.

On West Franklin Street in downtown, [Topo Distillery](#) is an ideal late-afternoon destination, where it's fun to take a tour and taste the in-house, handcrafted TOPO Vodka, Carolina Whiskey and Piedmont Gin created from scratch using only organic Carolina wheat and botanicals distilled in a copper pot & Columns from a 5th generation German still maker. **It's the only certified organic and local distillery in the deep South. Check website for guided tour and tasting schedules.**

Taste our **local craft beer at a beer pub crawl** from Chapel Hill's Top of the Hill Brewery and Carolina Brewery to Carrboro's Steel String Brewery and Yesteryears Brewery. Coming soon to Carrboro Dingo Dog Tap Room and Gimghoul Brewery. If heading to Hillsborough, try Mystery Brewing Company and Saturday afternoon guided tours. [Craft Beer and Spirits](#)

EVENING

Head Back downtown and enjoy lunch and one of the award-winning microbreweries [Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery](#), or [Carolina Brewery](#). Dine on the patio or outside on the street. Or for more southern comfort food, head out to [Allen & Son BBQ](#) or try [Mama Dips](#)

If here during the university school year, end your day with a world-class performance at [PlayMaker's Repertory Company](#) or [Carolina Performing Arts](#) event at Memorial Hall. If you like comedy, there is [DSI Comedy Theater](#) on West Franklin Street or several [college sports](#) events to partake in.

There are on-going special events, so check out the calendar on www.visit Chapel Hill.org for numerous options.

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