



Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau News Service

Keys Facts & Stats on Orange County, NC Towns

Mayors

Chapel Hill – Pam Hemminger

Carrboro – Lydia Lavelle

Hillsborough – Tom Stevens

Population (2015)

Orange County – 140,144

Chapel Hill – 59,605

Carrboro – 20,558

Hillsborough – 6,464

Durham-Chapel Hill, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area– 552,493 (for The U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s including Durham, Chapel Hill and the counties of Chatham, Durham, Orange and Person)

Neighboring Cities

Raleigh – 440,746

Durham – 250,933

Cary – 152,627

Burlington – 52,240

Mebane – 12,623

Size

Orange County – 398.0 square miles

Chapel Hill – 21.19 square miles

Carrboro – 6.5 square miles

Hillsborough – 5.7 square miles

Location

Orange County is located in north-central Piedmont section of North Carolina, approximately midway between Washington, DC, and Atlanta, GA. The Raleigh-Durham International Airport services the area and is 20 miles east of Chapel Hill.

Taxes

Local Sales Tax - 7.5%

Occupancy Tax – 6%

6% for accommodations in Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough (3% county + 3% from the towns) and 3% for accommodations in the rest of the county.

Climate

Summers range from the mid 60s to the high 80s; fall sees high 40s to the low 70s; winter ranges from high 20s to the low 50s; and spring has mid 40s to low 70s. The annual average temperature (°F) is 71 (high) and 47 (low). The annual average snowfall (inches) is 5.3. The average annual rainfall (inches) is 46.2.

Distance to Major Cities (miles)

Asheville – 220

Atlanta – 380

Charlotte – 140

Chicago – 830

Nashville – 510

New York – 503

Orlando – 624

Washington, DC – 270

Wilmington, NC – 158

Website Links

[Orange County](#)

[Chapel Hill](#)

[Carrboro](#)

[Hillsborough](#)

[Mebane](#)

History

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.

The Town of **Carrboro** 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. 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, 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.