

Recommended Places to Visit in the Triangle and Beyond

The Triangle comprises three major cities that are home to three major universities – Raleigh (State Capitol and home to North Carolina State University), Durham (Duke University), and Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

[Chapel Hill](#)

Many good restaurants and bars can be found along [Franklin Street](#) in Chapel Hill. [Morehead Planetarium and Science Center](#) (where the Galaxy Gala will be held) is on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill.

[Durham](#) is closest to Chapel Hill.

Major attractions in Durham include [Durham Bulls Athletic Park](#) (home of the minor league team) and nearby [American Tobacco Campus](#). [Sarah P. Duke Gardens](#) on Duke campus and the nearby [Duke Chapel](#) are must sees when visiting Durham. Both are free to tour (with paid parking).

[Raleigh](#) is the largest of the three cities and the state capitol.

The [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#) and the [North Carolina Museum of History](#) are free to tour and are next to each other in downtown Raleigh. Other historic buildings of interest include the [North Carolina State Capitol Building](#), the General Assembly building, and The Governor's Mansion. The [North Carolina Museum of Art](#) is located in western Raleigh (between Raleigh and Chapel Hill) and include grounds for a nice leisurely stroll. The [Grand Lodge of North Carolina](#) offices are located in Raleigh.

Driving to Chapel Hill?

Entering North Carolina from the West (from Chattanooga)

[Smoky Mountains and Cherokee](#)

At the far western end of North Carolina, this area includes parts of the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) and the Qualla Boundary – home to the [Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians](#).

Entering North Carolina from the West (via I-40)

Nestled in North Carolina's southern Blue Ridge Mountains, [Asheville](#) and its neighboring foothills towns exude quirky charm and character. The region's landscapes have starred in TV and film, and the area is a favorite among culinary travelers and outdoor enthusiasts alike for

its adventure, waterfalls and craft beer. Access to [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) – a relaxing drive revealing stunning long-range vistas.

Entering North Carolina from the South (via Charlotte)

Visit [NASCAR and auto-racing sites](#) in Charlotte (home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame), Concord (home to the Charlotte Motor Speedway), and Mooresville (home of the North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame).