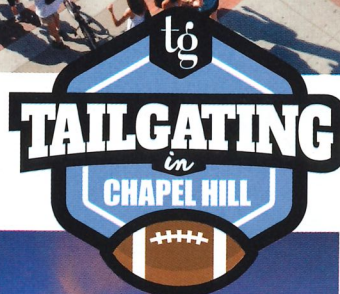
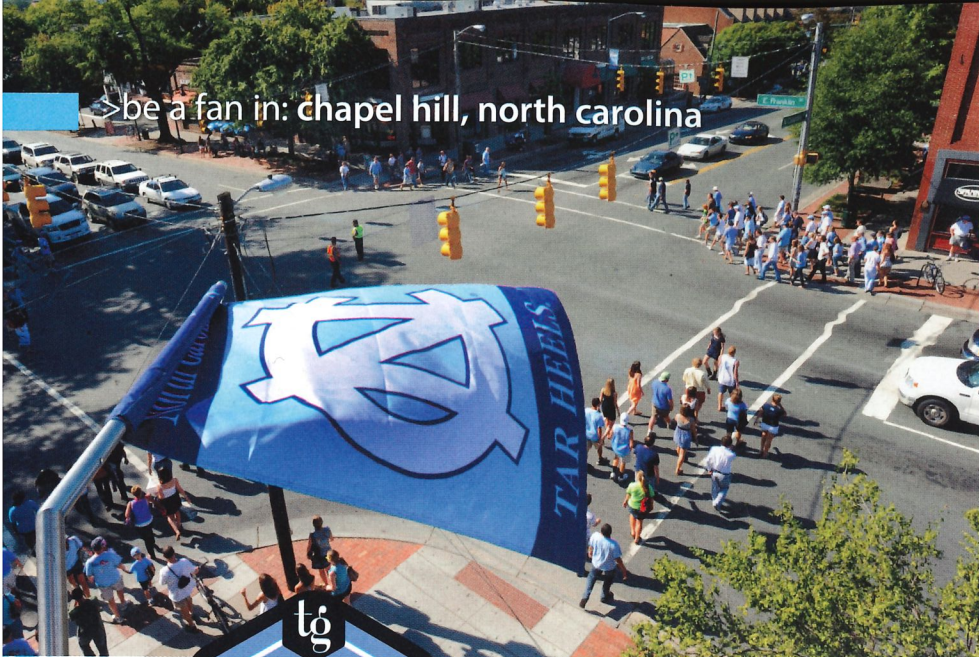


>be a fan in: chapel hill, north carolina



(Top) Franklin Street in Downtown Chapel Hill from Top of the Hill Restaurant

(Middle) The newest hotel in downtown Chapel Hill, the AC Hotel Chapel Hill Downtown opened in December 2017

(Bottom) Kidzu Children's Museum at University Place in Chapel Hill

**WHERE:** Ideally located in the center of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Orange County have a wealth of activities and experiences for any visitor – even if you don't visit to cheer on the **University of North Carolina's Tar Heels** (but we know you will!). It looks like it'll be a challenging football season, so that's all the more reason for fans to show their true Carolina Blue spirit during the Tar Heels' six home games.

**CHECK-IN:** Chapel Hill has lodging for every person and family's needs – from a bed and breakfast, to a luxury hotel to an economy suites hotel perfect for a long weekend. The area's newest hotel is the **AC Hotel Chapel Hill Downtown**, which blends a modern style with southern hospitality. The concept originated in Spain and now that it is stateside, it brings with it an elegant simplicity that provides everything that busy

guests need for a comfortable, tranquil visit. Located a block from Franklin Street, Chapel Hill's thriving, historic downtown, the AC Hotel Chapel Hill is the destination for those who prefer a sophisticated, yet less complicated lifestyle.

Part of the football tradition is staying at the **Carolina Inn**, which is located right on the campus of the University of North Carolina. Rooted in the traditions and charm of the south, this longtime destination and iconic landmark for college families and visitors offers 185 guest rooms and seven suites. Don't miss a chance to dine at its Crossroads restaurant, which features authentic, regionally sourced Carolina cuisine.

Become a member of the 1924 Club that offers parents of students exclusive deals including 15 percent discount on the best available night (except for graduation) and priority access to reservations for weekends at Kenan Stadium.

**TASTES OF THE TOWN:** When *Bon Appetit Magazine* lists you as "America's Foodiest Small Town," you know a visit to Chapel Hill will be a foodie's delight. Historic Franklin Street in downtown Chapel Hill boasts more than 200 restaurants, bars, retail shops and service

## Chapel Hill, North Carolina

businesses. The area's farm-to-table, award-winning restaurants offer an international trip around the culinary world with Asian fusion, traditional southern, progressive American, pit-cooked BBQ, Middle East, Mediterranean, fresh mesquite, charcoal grilled seafood and contemporary. And they have some of the best burgers around.

Food halls are the latest foodie trend and Chapel Hill has one of the best. Blue Dogwood Public Market vendors bring unique and diverse foods to the Chapel Hill food scene. The indoor market currently features seven permanent food vendors, including **Chocolatay Confections, Pizzelle Bakery, Rumi Persian Café, Soul Cocina** and **Vegan Flava Cafe**. Check out the rotating temporary pop-up vendors.

Love shrimp & grits? It was invented in Chapel Hill and if you want the original, go to **Crook's Corner!** Among our favorites are: **Bin 54 Steak & Cellar; Caffè Driade; Elements; Crossroads Chapel Hill; Guglhupf Bake Shop; Il Palio Ristorante; Lantern; LaPlace Louisiana Cookery; Mediterranean Deli, Bakery and Catering; Mint; Oakleaf and Weathervane.**

Of course, who doesn't love Carolina bar-b-que? Try **Allen & Sons Bar-b-Que** and **Hillsborough BBQ.**

**TOURING AND MORE:** Fall is the perfect weather to be outside, so go and explore Chapel Hill at the **Riverwalk**, a paved, accessible, urban greenway that stretches about 1.8 miles along the Eno River between Gold Park in western Hillsborough and trails east of town. It is a popular trail for walking, jogging and cycling, and provides pedestrian connections between several neighborhoods. Along the trail look for the one-of-a-kind Stickwork sculpture. The large-scale sapling sculpture built with three truckloads of Southern sugar maple, sweetgum and elm saplings, was built by internationally acclaimed sculptor Patrick Dougherty.

The **Kidzu Children's Museum** focuses on making, building, exploring and learning for infants through the tween years. It's a multi-sensory, play-centered space with an ever-changing menu of exhibits and programs to inspire creativity and learning through purposeful play.

The heartbeat of Kidzu is dedicated to "maker education" and STEM learning. Visitors of all ages craft with real materials, tinker with real tools and explore new technologies. Each month, The Makery hosts appearances by "Makery Masters" – local artists, craftspeople, inventors and scientists who share their expertise with Kidzu visitors. Other exhibits include Farm to Table, Forest Theater, The Front Yard: Outdoor Learning Garden, Flexible Forest and the Book Nook.

[www.visitchapelhill.org](http://www.visitchapelhill.org) **tg**