

Staycation Ideas

Fun Ways to Have a Fulfilling Staycation When Cabin Fever is Setting In

In Orange County, NC we're lucky to have access to so much beauty and outdoor options. We are also well situated for some exciting day trips to nearby cities and counties.



Here are fun ideas for places to explore this Fall and Winter. [Click here for the printer-friendly PDF version.](#)

1. [Carolina Inn Encourages you to Plan for the Holidays 2020](#)
 - o **Brunch with Santa:** Dec 5,6,12,13,19,20,23,24 • 10am



Santa Claus will be in North Carolina in December.

- **Lunch with Santa:** *Dec 6,12,13,19,20,23 12:30pm*
A festive Carolina Inn meal with Santa will undoubtedly usher in the Christmas magic for young and old alike along with plenty of entertainment for all! Our gatherings will be intimate experiences designed to make sure that you and your family members are able to enjoy holiday festivities in a safe environment
- **Make Your Own Gingerbread House:** *Dec 12,13,19,20,22,23 • 2pm*
Just in time for the holidays - The Carolina Inn is hosting a children's Gingerbread House Making Class. Join us for a cozy afternoon that begins with a tale of Christmas magic. Each child will then be able to assemble and decorate their very own Gingerbread House complete with an apron, chef's hat and all the holiday sweets and goodies that their imaginations can hold. At the end of the class, children will take home a completed Gingerbread House and accessories.
- **Cookie Decorating TO GO:** *Available Dec 5,6,12,13,19,20,23*
Want to decorate cookies with your kids but don't want to do all the work? The Carolina Inn offers a full baker's dozen holiday cookie decorating kit to include pre-baked sugar cookies, icing, and lots of goodies to put on top. Enjoy the fun in the comfort of your home.
- **Thanksgiving TO GO:** *Nov 25 • 11am - 4pm - Pick Up Service*
Enjoy all of the treats that Thanksgiving has to offer without having to do any of the work. The Carolina inn is offering a full to go Thanksgiving menu that can be enjoyed in the comfort of your home with family and friends. Full menu to be released Oct 15
- **Christmas TO GO:** *Dec 24 • 11am - 2pm - Pick Up Service*
A Christmas brunch that you don't have to cook? Set the table, warm up, and treat your guests to a holiday meal that they won't forget. Full menu to be released Oct 15.
- **Holiday Tea TO GO:** *Dec 5,6,12,13,19,20,22,23 • Pick up 3pm - 4pm day of order*
You can enjoy our Classic Afternoon Tea in the comfort of your own home. Our delectable house-made accompaniments include savory tea sandwiches, assorted sweets, and fresh baked scones served with fresh lemon curd, English Devonshire cream and butter.

is hand prepared and packaged in true Carolina Inn elegance.



Christmas at the Carolina Inn

- **Holiday Tea-Seated:** Dec 5,6,12,13,19,20,22,23 • 2pm - 5pm
A festive afternoon Tea Service at The Carolina Inn is a timeless seasonal tradition. Served in our elegant Piedmont Dining Room and the North Parlor , enjoy the ambiance of gracious gentility. Our dedicated Tea Hostess selects the finest teas, offering different assortments for the

season. Delectable house-made accompaniments include festive savory tea sandwiches, assorted sweets, and fresh baked scones served with fresh lemon curd, English Devonshire cream, jams and preserves.

2. New in Asheville This Fall: Overnight Stay Suggestions from ExploreAsheville.com

- Just a 3.5 hour drive from Orange County and surrounded by the highest peaks in the eastern U.S., Asheville is steeped in natural history, fall adventure and cultural legacies—including America’s Largest Home, Biltmore, and America’s favorite scenic drive, the Blue Ridge Parkway (which intersects Asheville at several points). Weather experts say the region *may* be looking at a delay in the cooler temps, which could mean more time for travelers looking to leverage outside adventures this fall.



Asheville, North Carolina

- For those interested in local culture with a mountain backdrop, the Asheville area has a number of walkable neighborhoods and districts worth exploring. Bring your mask for sidewalk safety and explore these new neighborhood POIs on foot.
- Asheville’s colorful art and warehouse district along the French Broad River, the **River Arts District**, is coming into a new era as a walkable riverfront destination and entertainment district. This fall, a longer, improved greenway with art-infused pedestrian connectivity offers

visitors a new way to experience this intensely creative area by foot or bike, or your floatation-device-of-choice via new river access points. Watch artists working in studios, wander to airy wine bars or sample famous barbecue in a street-art-filled courtyard.

- Downtown Asheville is known for open-air markets, tailgate farmers markets and independent shops and boutiques. Opening during a pandemic is no small feat, but the **Noir Collective AVL** has an important mission as a retail space for Black entrepreneurs, artists, makers and social activists. The shop is in the **YMI Cultural Center**, which has a rich history as one of the nation's oldest African American institutions dating back to 1893 and is located on The Block, the city's historic Black business district.
 - While you're there, walk a block north to Pack Square to see the vibrant, expansive **Black Lives Matter** street mural, a community and artist-driven effort, coordinated by the Asheville Area Arts Council and led by artists Joseph Pearson, Jenny Pickens and Marie T. Cochran of the Affrilachian Artist Project.
- Head for the charming and artsy main-street town of **Black Mountain** (just a short 20-minute drive from Asheville). A new, larger-than-life mural was recently created celebrating musical icon and Black Mountain native **Roberta Flack**, as part of the N.C. Musicians Mural Project. After basking in the glow of this inspiring outdoor mural, head into **Black Mountain Brewing** (where it resides) for a pint.
- **For Music Lovers:**
 - Opening this September, **Citizen Vinyl** will offer an immersive music experience with a record plant, independent record store and music café and bar. Recently opened in the South Slope district, **Rabbit Rabbit** is a new outdoor event venue from Asheville Brewing Company and The Orange Peel, Asheville's nationally known rock club that has hosted acts such as Bob Dylan, Ben Harper, The Flaming Lips and The Beastie Boys. The space will offer live music, movie screenings, local beer and food trucks.

- **New Restaurants for Fall and Breweries with Wide Open Spaces:**
 - Chef Jacob Sessoms, Asheville's original James Beard semifinalist (2010) and an innovator of Asheville's modern take on Appalachian cuisine, opened **El Gallo AVL**, with tacos and sandwiches by day and market-driven Mexican plates at night by Chef Luis Martinez.
 - **Asheville Proper**, in the historic Grove Arcade, is a fresh take on the classic steakhouse, centering around live-fire cooking and a locally sourced seasonal menu.
 - **Ashe Hole Doughnuts and Coffee** started as a mobile doughnut truck and has now expanded to a brick-and-mortar shop. Founded by Chef Gene Ettison, who has worked in some of Asheville's top restaurants, the shop offers made-to-order doughnuts with flavors such as French toast, peanut butter cup and cookies n' coffee.
 - **Highland Brewing Company** has reopened its meadow with picnic tables, designated seating circles (bring your blanket!) and volleyball courts. The brewery sits on a 40-acre property that includes nature trails.
 - Farmhouse brewery **Turgua Brewing Company** has moved to a new Fairview location with lots of open space and a creek nearby.
 - **Whistle Hop Brewing Company**, also in nearby Fairview and known for its antique train car taproom, has expanded its family-friendly outdoor options with a slide, putt-putt course, and a "puttcee" course that combines bocce and putt-putt.



Asheville Food Scene is Definitely Worth Checking Out

- **Biltmore's Mountain Oasis Weekend** package offers activities to boost well-being including yoga, bike rentals and a guided nature stroll on the 8,000-acre estate. Experience expansive mountain views and lush grounds with a luxurious stay at the four-star Inn on Biltmore Estate or a private getaway with butler service at the Cottage on Biltmore Estate.



Biltmore Estate

- Visit [ExploreAsheville.com/fall](https://www.exploreasheville.com/fall) for weekly color reports utilizing up-to-date information from area parks, leaf experts and attractions, as well

as an animated color-progression map of peaking fall leaves that pinpoints when and where the best color is occurring. New this year, the **Asheville Hike Finder** is now available on Alexa. Simply search “Asheville Hike Finder” in your Alexa app and enable for insider guidance as you select trails for views, waterfalls and skill level.



Asheville Offers Numerous Recreation Options

- **PARKLETS & STAY SAFE PLEDGE**

In Asheville, the city has launched “Temporary Parklet” and “Shared Streets” programs to allow businesses, like restaurants and retail, to expand into on-street parking areas for outdoor seating and continued operations with extra fresh air and space. Downtown kiosks remind visitors that North Carolina requires masks indoors and outside, including sidewalks when social distance cannot be maintained. Information on the safety actions of local businesses and shared

responsibility of visitors can be found via the “**Asheville Cares Stay Safe Pledge**.”

- o **Asheville Jewish Community Center Hanukkah 8K**

The 5th annual Asheville Jewish Community Center Hanukkah 8K will take place VIRTUALLY on Sunday, December 13, 2020. The JCC Hanukkah 8K is a community-wide celebration of the 8-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights. Proceeds of the JCC Hanukkah 8K will benefit **Shalom Children’s Center’s scholarship fund**.

Participants in the Asheville JCC’s Virtual Hanukkah 8K will run an 8-K course of their choosing on Sunday, December 13. They will log their time via a log button on the JCC website, and submit photographic proof of running. Winners will be announced on Monday, December 14, when all times have been received. Prizes will be mailed to winners following the race.

For more information about the Hanukkah 8K, email wendy@jcc-asheville.org.



3. Treat yourself to the beloved estate tradition known as ***Christmas at Biltmore***, when America's Largest Home®, Antler Hill Village, and the entire estate are at their most enchanting. Two magical experiences await Orange County residents:

November 6, 2020 - January 10, 2021

A daytime visit to Biltmore is a feast for the senses, featuring wreaths, garlands, and the sparkle of thousands of ornaments, from Biltmore House to Antler Hill Village!

November 6, 2020 - January 9, 2021

A majestic Norway spruce and pathway luminaries welcome you to America's Largest Home®. Inside, thousands of ornaments reflect the soft glow of candles, fireplaces, and twinkle lights. The magic continues in Antler Hill

Village, which is festooned with a glittering cascade of lights, ornaments, and displays.

<https://www.biltmore.com/things-to-do/events/christmas/>



The Biltmore House at Christmas

4. Charlotte Ideas

- **A Golf-GetawayFor:** Those looking to get 54 holes in a weekend.
Stay: Known for its convenient location to the Charlotte Motor Speedway, **Embassy Suites Charlotte-Concord Golf Resort & Spa** is also an ideal place to stay for another sport ... golf. The all-suite hotel in Concord offers plenty of space to unwind and socially distance on your staycation.
Dine: Stonehouse Grille at the course, of course.
Play: At one of the top 100 courses in North Carolina, **Rocky River Golf Club**, located next door to the hotel.



Golf in Charlotte

- **For those missing the beach. Stay:** Set on the banks of Lake Wylie (about 25 minutes from Uptown) sits a small, private, tiny home community: **Long Cove Resort**. The private club is home to 33 individual vacation rental homes, an outdoor swimming pool, a marina and watersport rentals. Rentals range from a studio to two-bedroom cabins. **Dine:** On the 2,000 square foot Luna Patio overlooking the lake. **Play:** In the water at the property's own private beach, Sunset Beach.
- **For unplugging and natural social distancing. Stay:** Located about 90-minutes from Charlotte is the recently-opened **Getaway Asheboro**. This property features 30 different two- and four-person cabins scattered across an undisclosed location. The cabins are the perfect blend of rustic surroundings and modern convenience, with amenities like queen-sized beds, AC/Heat, private bathrooms and a two-burner stove. **Dine:** In your cabin's mini-kitchen. Your cabin comes stocked with necessary supplies, so BYOI (bring your own ingredients).
- **Play:** Hike nearby trails (like Purgatory Mountain Trailhead) or go zip-lining at **Richland Creek's Zip Line Canopy Tour**, about a 10-minutes' drive away; face masks are encouraged.

- Set your intention and head to the **U.S. National Whitewater Center's Flow Fest** to find a variety of yoga practices and workshops that will invigorate any practice.
- Choose your own biking adventure at Sustain Charlotte's **Biketoberfest**. There will be new twists and turns this year to safely accommodate crowds but Sustain Charlotte will still be partnering with local businesses for a scavenger hunt and a chance to win raffle prizes.
- Take a walk through the tranquil **Botanical Gardens at UNC Charlotte**, which dates back to 1966. You can pack a picnic, bring a book or just enjoy the sights and sounds in these 10 acres of outdoor beauty.
- Stroll along Charlotte's vibrant **Rail Trail**, which winds through South End and Uptown Charlotte. Or take a seat on a bench along the trail to watch the city come alive around you. (Bonus points if you get a 1/4 Chicken Dinner from **Price's Chicken Coop** for a picnic lunch.)
- See how the Charlotte skyline pops against the Carolina blue skies from rooftop bars like **Whiskey Warehouse**, **Merchant & Trade**, **Nuvolé Rooftop TwentyTwo** or **Cloud Bar by David Burke**.
- BYOM (bring your own mat) to **Good Karma Ranch** and practice yoga in a peaceful pasture among alpacas. (Yes, you read that right – alpacas.) The 50-minute session will help you find your inner peace... or at least a sheepish smile. (Bonus: They also offer farm tours for the whole family.)



Charlotte Skyline

- Take a walk on the wild side and explore 30 different species of live birds of prey at the **Carolina Raptor Center**.
- Head to **VBGB Beer Hall and Garden**, one of the largest patios in Charlotte.
- Cruise up to **Charlotte Motor Speedway** for an unforgettable drive-in movie experience. Park in the infield in front of the 16,000 square foot high-definition television and watch a favorite flick come alive.



Charlotte Motor Speedway

5. Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area might be a rather small state park-managed site at about 190 acres. But it's a fantastic change of pace, and the top of Occoneechee Mountain is the highest point in Orange County. The park's ponds and proximity to the Eno River offer visitors and locals a place to fish, too. **Update:** Occoneechee Mountain is now open during normal hours, from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. Hiking trails and the bathroom are open.
6. Ayr Mount in Hillsborough was considered one of Central North Carolina's finest homes when construction was completed in 1812. A great way to enjoy the beauty of the property is to stroll the mile-long loop, known as the Poet's Walk. You'll pass through the woods, along the Eno River, and through the Kirkland family cemetery. This path makes it easy for one to get lost in the beautiful surrounding scenery.
7. Self-Guided Mural Tour in Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough is one for the bucket list. Check it out.



Shaka Shave Ice in downtown Carrboro offers cool refreshments and a brightly colored seascape mural painted right on the store.

8. Spark joy by supporting local businesses. This [Orange County blog](#) shows you how to enjoy many local favorites. Wondering where you should plan your next meal out in Orange County? Good news: we've got you covered, check out these [local restaurants](#). Wondering how to shop local while still practicing social distancing? Many local businesses have curbside pick-up, delivery, to go, and online options. Check out our [shopping page here](#).



411 is a local Chapel Hill restaurant with a menu that is inspired by the flavors of Italy and the Mediterranean, with a healthy California twist.

9. Johnston County, affectionately known as JoCo to the locals, is less than an hour east of Orange County. It is far enough away from the urban areas of The Triangle to offer visitors the charm of farm life and small-town living. JoCo invites Orange County residents to get outside the city with their "Grapes, Gardner, and Great Deals Day Trip!"
10. Start the day in Smithfield, the county seat, which has a thriving downtown with an emerging culinary scene. Discover Smithfield's ties to Hollywood glamour at the Ava Gardner Museum. Learn about the life and career of this local screen legend.
11. Before lunch visit Hinnant Family Vineyards, one of the stops along the Beer, Wine and Shine Trail – a self-guided craft beverage experience through JoCo.



Tour and taste at the largest muscadine vineyard in North Carolina with over 100 acres.

12. When you get hungry try Parkside Café for some Southern cookin' at very affordable prices, where hush puppies are free and the waitress might call you "hon". Or circle back around to Downtown Smithfield and enjoy locally-source, chef-crafted dishes with unique takes on southern staples from Under the Oak, Simple Twist, or SoDoSoPa.
13. Stay a little longer as afternoon turns to evening and have a cold pint at Double Barley Brewing, another stop along the Beer, Wine and Shine Trail. Double Barley also has a delicious bar menu if you want one last bite of JoCo before you're on your way back home.



Double Barley Brewing, Johnston County.

14. In neighboring Durham, the great outdoors are still free, and the open air is a smart place to be. Stretch your legs at the local favorite Eno River State Park, an attraction that has slowly reopened its access points. Per an update published recently, Few's Ford and Cole Mill accesses are operating under normal hours, and all trails and bathrooms located near parking lots are open.



Fews Ford and Cole Mill accesses are operating under normal hours.

15. Durham encourages you to take to the trails and keep moving, rather than congregating in groups. Bathrooms are scheduled to be cleaned throughout the day, as picnic shelters, water fountains, and hydrants remain turned off. Please bring a filled, reusable water bottle with you! You should also note that Cabelands and Pleasant Green accesses are still closed and parking near those gates is not permitted. Swimming is also not permitted at the Eno Quarry at this time. Bring your pup on a leash and enjoy the fresh air! It might be crowded as folks are eager to get outside, so consider visiting during non-peak hours. Parks, trails and greenways under the management of Durham Parks and Recreation are now open, though the DPR recreation centers are closed. The Triangle Land Conservancy's Horton Grove Nature Preserve is also open with eight miles of hiking trails waiting for you to explore, including the That Makes Sense Interpretative Trail for kids.
16. Pack Your Own Picnic: While the Sarah P. Duke Gardens remain closed, the rest of the brehtaking picnic spots in this blog post are still wonderful options for you to roll out a blanket and enjoy the weather.
17. Ahh, Durham. Pick up an ice cream sandwich from Rose's Noodles, Dumplings and Sweets, or enjoy a snocone from Pelican's SnoBalls for just a handful of quarters. Sweet treats are made even more delightful given the heat wave

that's sure to hit during this Carolina summer.



Pelican's SnoBalls in Durham is Fido friendly.

18. Cabarrus County reminds Orange County that they are excited to see us! Just a two-hour drive from Chapel Hill and Orange County, Cabarrus County is home to many experiences that are essential to North Carolina's story. Enjoy a full day of fun filled with motorsports, gold history, craft beverages and more.
19. Making a pit stop in Kannapolis, arriving via I-85? Take Exit 60 and follow Dale Earnhardt Blvd to Downtown Kannapolis where the life of a NASCAR legend is celebrated at Dale Earnhardt Tribute Plaza. The 9-ft., 900-lb. statue is just one stop on The Dale Trail self-guided tour. Then, check out what's new in this revitalized city's center. Have a beer at veteran-owned brewery Old Armor and enjoy ballpark fare at Atrium Health Ballpark, a public park and home of Cabarrus County's minor league baseball team, the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers.



This 9 foot tall, 900-pound bronze statue of Dale Earnhardt is clad in jeans, cowboy boots, and a short-sleeved shirt.

20. Recharge for a walk along Union Street at locally-owned coffee shops like [Press & Porter](#) and [Groundwork Common](#). The Historic Self-Guided Walking Tour takes you to four districts with over 50 historic sites using the [Downtown Concord app](#).
21. Explore Midland & Mt. Pleasant coming in from NC Highway 49. Stretch your legs along walking trails at the site of America's first discovery of gold, [Reed Gold Mine](#). This state historic site in Midland is just minutes from more scenic spots including [Rocky River Vineyards](#). In Mt. Pleasant, hike the [Carolina Thread Trail](#), plan a paddling excursion with [Capstone Climbing & Adventure](#), hunt for treasure at [Cline's Country Antiques](#) or take a tour of "Whiskey Prison" at [Southern Grace Distilleries](#). Then, end your adventure with a delicious meal at [73 & Main](#).



The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of connected greenways, trails and blueways that reaches 15 counties, 2 states and 2.9 million people.

22. Hang Out in Harrisburg also located along NC Highway 49, the town of Harrisburg has even more options for places to eat and enjoy craft beer. Vortex Bottle Shop offers an inspired food menu and hundreds of beverage options, and local breweries Percent Tap House and Pharr Mill Brewing both serve up small batch beer in laid-back settings. Before getting back on the road, make one more stop into Small Batch Foody and choose from a variety of North Carolina-made treats to enjoy on the way home.
23. Andy of Mayberry in a Day (One-Day Mayberry-Mount Airy Trip).
24. Drive to the Andy Griffith Museum for a look at Andy Griffith memorabilia, like the jailhouse keys, Andy Taylor's sheriff shirt, Goober Pyle's beanie, and many more items from The Andy Griffith Show. Tip: Walk next door to the Surry Arts Council lower-level exhibit to view the Eng and Chang Siamese Twins display, adjacent to the museum.



Spend a day in Andy Griffith's hometown.

25. Pose for pictures at the TV Land Statue of Opie and Andy of Mayberry.
26. Walk to Snappy Lunch for a famous boneless pork chop sandwich fried in sweet milk and egg batter until golden crispy and finished with incredible toppings! Make sure to ask for extra napkins!



Snappy Lunch is a Mount Airy landmark diner serving breakfast plates, biscuits & sandwiches in a no-nonsense setting.

27. Stroll through Main Street, making sure to stop first at the Mount Airy Visitor Center. You'll want to plan a few hours touring downtown, Mount Airy. There's a lot of stores to browse, such as boutique stores, toy stores, bakeries, a soda fountain, eateries, antique stores, and more. Don't forget to add dessert after you've burned off a few of those calories from the pork chop sandwich!
 28. Drive 15 minutes to the top of Pilot Mountain State Park and hike the Jomeokee Trail, a .9-mile loop for beginners that takes you around the base of the large pinnacle. Afterward, if time permits, head to downtown Pilot Mountain (i.e., Mount Pilot as known on The Andy Griffith Show) for more retail therapy and dinner.
 29. A day trip to Raleigh/Wake County needs to include a few things: Award-winning pastries, outdoor exploring and family- or date-friendly entertainment. Here's how to do just that!
 30. A worthy pit stop to help fuel the day ahead, La Farm Bakery—a traditional French bakery owned by three-time James Beard semifinalist Lionel Vatinet for more than 20 years now—offers artisan breads, baked goods, pastries and coffee. Grab some napkins as well because breakfast is to-go in this itinerary. **Location:** 4248 N.W. Cary Pkwy., Cary. **Current hours:** Mon.-Sun., 8 am - 4 pm (takeout only.)
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At La Farm Bakery, loaves are hand-crafted daily in a variety flavors, shapes, and sizes.

31. One of N.C.'s most-visited state parks, William B. Umstead State Park—a 12-minute drive from La Farm Bakery—remains a peaceful getaway thanks to its sheer size (more than 5,000 acres of forest, trails and lakes sit on the edge of Raleigh, Cary and Morrisville). With 13 miles of multi-use trails that follow a series of rolling hills (perfect for horseback riding, jogging and cycling) and 22 miles of dedicated hiking trails, this is a must-hit destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Parking at the Reedy Creek entrance to the park, just off of I-40, offers access to two popular hiking trails (Company Mill, a 5.8-mile loop trail; and Loblolly, a 5.4-mile out-and-back trail) and picnic tables to enjoy your breakfast. Be sure to bring water because water fountains may be closed due to COVID-19. **Location:** 2100 N. Harrison Ave., Cary. **Current hours:** 8 am - 9 pm, with weekends being very busy from 10 am - 5 pm.



William B. Umstead State Park

32. One good way to experience Raleigh's trailblazing food scene? Lunch at downtown Raleigh's Transfer Co. Food Hall—a massive foodie attraction that opened in early 2019 to great fanfare—where bagels, beer, burritos, burgers and more are on the menu across the 10 different vendors that fill the space (a perfect spot for groups!). **Location:** 500 E. Davie St., Raleigh. **Current hours:** Open for dine-in and takeout; most vendors open at 11 am for lunch and dinner
33. It's open now, so if you are looking for big entertainment visit the Drive Shack—the interactive golf complex that caters to big groups—opened in 2019 in Raleigh. The three-story complex includes 96 golf bays, a full-service restaurant, a rooftop bar, more than 300 televisions, an arcade area, meeting rooms and more. Drive Shack allows guests and groups to rent bays by the hour, giving them access to wait-service, unlimited driving range balls, full sets of TaylorMade golf clubs, a climate-controlled outdoor seating area (essential for summer!), televisions and more. **Location:** 6901 Play Golf Way, Raleigh.

Current hours: 10 am - 10 pm.



34. Back in downtown Raleigh, an outdoor dinner is a no-brainer on a nice evening. Couples will want to make reservations at [Mulino Italian Kitchen & Bar](#)—a cozy Italian restaurant that boasts what is perhaps the Raleigh area’s most unique patio setting (poolside dining, anyone?). **Mulino:** 309 N. Dawson St. Raleigh; open for dine-in and takeout service Tues.-Sun. beginning at 5 pm.



Enjoy a drink poolside at Mulino Restaurant, Raleigh.

35. Have you ever checked-out Wilson, NC? Visit a downtown park or public space or just take a relaxing stroll down the sidewalk. It's a great time to explore public art in their Artsee Alleys, painted fire hydrants, Big Belly recycling/refuse receptacles and the whirligigs in the Whirligig Park. While there, post on social media and tag Historic Downtown Wilson. Just 1.5 hours from Orange County, a visit to Wilson and the Vollis Whirligig Park is an ideal day trip.



Wilson is home to the Vollis Whirligig Park

36. Ferrington Village, in neighboring Chatham County began reopening June 3rd and they are excited to welcome Orange County visitors. The Belted Goat continues with carryout service and curbside concierge pickup. They have outdoor seating available on the patio, under the tent, and out on the lawn for their guests. See hours and menus [here](#). Roost is open Friday and Saturday from 4 pm - 7 pm with a full menu including wood-fired pizza, local draft beers, and outdoor seating available. See menus and hours [here](#).
37. While at Ferrington Village you and the family will be able to see the **black and white belted cows**, a rare breed of Scottish beef cattle that was introduced to the United States back in the 1950s. In 1982, R.B. Fitch brought a herd of six Belted Galloway Cows from Virginia to Ferrington. There are now over thirty Belties grazing the Ferrington pastures. Guests often refer to the Belted Galloways as “Oreo cows.”



Belted Galloway cows at Farrington Farms.

38. The Pinehurst & Sandhills area welcomes Orange County residents. What to do? Here are some suggestions. Cradle Par 3 Course at Pinehurst Resort is designed by Gil Hanse. Yes, you can play it for \$50.00 per person and play all day. Kids under 16 are free. Tons of fun and they sell beverage (even adult ones) from the Pinecone trailer overlooking Cradle.



Cradle Par 3 Course, Pinehurst Resort, Pinehurst, NC

39. Historic Walking Tour through Pinehurst Village. On the Walking Tour, you can wander through the beautiful winding tree-lined village lanes, soaking in the history of the adorable buildings and the people who built them. You can get a paper version of the tour for free at the Tufts Archives.
40. Mural Trail of Carthage. The three murals are vibrant with color and dynamic. Artist Scott Nurkin managed to achieve a depth and saturation of color that makes you feel like you can step right into the brick. These are all located in downtown Carthage. You can easily drive to all three in minutes. Then lunch at the Pik n' Pig at the Carthage airport (McConnell Field).



Flying Ace Mural, Carthage, NC

41. Bucket List. If Pinehurst No. 2 is on your bucket list, you'll be playing in the footsteps of all the grand champions of golf. No matter how you play, you're bound to walk off the course feeling like a legend. Typically, you have to be Resort guest to play No. 2. BUT, you can call within a 24 hour window and if tee times are available, a non-resort guest can book. But, it is \$495 per person.
42. Don't forget the breweries: Pinehurst Brewing Company (best brisket in the destination), Southern Pines Brewing Company, Hatchet Brewing and Railhouse Brewery. The new Southern Pines Brewing Company just moved to a new location and [here's a link to their video](#).



Downtown Southern Pines, NC

43. Granville County, North Carolina would love to see Orange County residents. This beautiful region includes the charming municipalities of Oxford, Butner, Creedmoor, Stem and Stovall. Located in close proximity Hillsborough and Chapel Hill.
 44. At the Tobacco Wood Brewing Company, the breezy air mixes with friendly voices, live music, and delicious aromas from the barbecue-fusion menu. Since it opened in 2018, North Carolina's first female- and veteran-owned brewery has been a gathering place for the community, as well as for visitors making the quick one-hour trip from the Triangle. In the airy, 2,200-square-foot taproom where they serve 13 of their own beers on tap, a knowledgeable bartender pours pints and beer flights and, with a nudge, will tell the stories behind charming, funky beer names like Rocket Surgery (a juniper Kölsch) and Tar River's Revenge (a porter).
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Tobacco Woodbrewing Company Samples

45. Near-by Creedmoor has a few destinations worth checking out. One of those is the Owl House Café, a French-American family-owned shop right downtown at 209 N. Main Street. The café features subs and burgers, espressos, and all-day breakfast, and is getting a reputation for its pastries and sweets. Think mouth-watering crepes, macarons, éclairs, cannolis, chocolate lava muffins, cheesecakes, homemade ice cream, and 14 kinds of shakes.
46. Next, stretch your legs and enjoy the scenery at Lake Rogers Park. Located on 175 acres just northwest of downtown Creedmoor, the park has just undergone a massive renovation and includes a fishing deck, boat launch, and a new scenic walking trail.

47. **Plumpeez in Butner** is an authentic New York style deli that serves the best sandwiches in North Carolina. They use only Boars Head meats, cheeses, and condiments, and their bread products are preservative free fresh from the bakery of Neomonde.
48. Do you like Disc Golf? It's a fast growing leisure sport that attracts solo players and small groups to the fresh open air. Check-out Alamance County's course at Cedarock Park.



49. **Cedarock Park** is a 414-acre (1.68 km²) nature preserve, historic farm, and passive-use park located near Bellemont in Alamance County, North Carolina. The park has a top rated Disc Golf course Established 1989. Designed by Members of Bur-D (The original players' club). **Free to Play**, an outstanding wooded course, which required the felling of no old growth, mature trees. Beautiful, wide open green grass fairways, with just enough tree foliage to let you know it's there.
50. Did you know that Disc Golf is better in Person? Person County that is. [Check-out this video that combines classic music with disc golf.](#)



51. The Rockness Monster is a 27-hole disc golf course located on the Piedmont Community College Person County Campus and is free and open to the public. The course has Innova DISCatcher baskets, 4 tee pads for beginner (red), intermediate (white), alternate (orange) and advanced (blue). Unique custom teepads are located on all white and blue locations (unless pavement was available - hole 1 and 2) as well as orange tees on holes 4,5,8,9 and professional tee signs are located on every hole at the white tee and benches are behind every white and blue teepad. A complete course map is located on the back of the kiosk at the entrance of the course.
52. In Benson, NC, Tucker Lake is a 30 acre lake fed by clear, spring water with white sand beaches. Whether you want to relax on the beach, float in the water, take a plunge from the 167 ft. waterslide, picnic/grilling, or play volleyball, Tucker Lake is open Wednesday through Sunday, the cost of admission is Ages 12 and older: \$12.00. Ages 3-11: \$10.00 **Current Hours:** 10 am - 6 pm. Bring your own snacks. Or, a Concession Stand is available which serves items such as Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Sausage Dogs, Corn Dogs, Nachos, French Fries, Funnel Cakes, Ice Cream, Milk Shakes, Icees, Drinks, etc. From Raleigh: Take I-40 East to Exit 325. Turn left on NC 242 (Woodall Dairy Rd.). Go to stop sign and turn right on Raleigh Rd. Go to stop sign and turn right on Hwy. 301. Turn left on Hannah Creek Rd in front of South Johnston High School. Go approx. 2

miles and turn right on Allens Crossroads Rd. Lake will be about 0.5 mile on the left.



Tucker Lake, Benson, NC

53. Seagrove Pottery in Randolph County is an outstanding gallery of handcrafted North Carolina pottery and crafts in Seagrove and Cary North Carolina. Handcrafted in North Carolina the selections include decorative pottery, bake ware, home décor. In Seagrove, NC: 106 North Broad Street. Seagrove, NC 27341. 336-873-7280.



Pottery from Seagrove Pottery, Randolph County, NC

54. Botanist and Barrel Cidery in Cedar Grove crafts artisanal ciders that stretch the imagination and taste buds.
55. **August 1, 2020:** Join Botanist and Barrel from 2 pm - 6 pm as they welcome Meal Smith to the Tasting Room .



MealSmith at Botanist and Barrel, Cedar Grove, NC

56. **August 2, 2020:** Join Botanist and Barrel from 1 pm - 5 pm as they welcome Street Fair Food Truck (Mardi Gras Eats). They feature Mardi Gras themed foods, like bourbon street beignets and French quarter crepes. They aim to satisfy and delight our customers by offering a place where they can celebrate fresh local foods and get a taste of Carnival as every day is Mardi Gras at Street Fare!
57. **August 29, 2020:** Join Botanist and Barrel for a Cilantro tasting event featuring cilantro Mexican cuisine in the tasting room. Grab some nachos and tacos and flight of cider! For more information about ciders, the Tasting Room and

summer celebrations, visit: <https://www.botanistandbarrel.com>.



58. Lake Norman

Just 20 miles north of Charlotte, Lake Norman welcomes Orange County visitors. Here are some ideas to get you started on living your best life on a budget.



Forest Therapy in Lake Norman

Start with some coffee

Get your day going with good energy and good coffee. **Summit Coffee**, a staple in Davidson, offers coffee, beers, seasonal drink menu, pastries, and live music three nights a week. Grab a latte and start walking down Main Street to check out all the local shops or find a seat in the back of Summit Coffee where they have an inviting outdoor patio. Furry friends allowe

Take a hike

Want to get some steps in to balance out your well-deserved couch time at home? Venture out to **Latta Nature Preserve**, Mecklenburg county's largest nature preserve offering endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. You can find two launch areas for paddling enthusiasts, a fishing dock, picnic areas, a volleyball court, and 16 miles of trails for hikers and horseback riders. Other facilities you can visit within the nature preserve include the **Carolina Raptor Center** and **Historic Latta Plantation**.



Historic Latta Plantation

Get out on the water

Looking to experience the serenity of the lake firsthand? **Aloha Paddle Sports** has single kayaks and paddleboards or tandem kayaks to rent. If you're new to paddle boarding, don't worry! They will provide lessons before you take off. They also offer sunset paddle tours on Saturday evenings and paddleboard yoga during the warmer months. Reserve your spot online [here!](#)

The Raptor Trail at the Carolina Raptor Center provides a space for people to connect with the natural world by featuring over 30 species of birds. On select

days of the week, you'll have the opportunity to witness one of their special events where you could get up close and personal with their birds. Pretty fly right?



Carolina Raptor Center

It's all fun and games

Whether you're 8, 24, or 99, everyone has a young side to them that enjoys the playful and competitive games.

Frankie's of Charlotte has 3 go-kart tracks, 3 mini-golf courses, and bowling that are currently open to the public. If you're a parent reading this, show your kids you still got it! If you're a kid reading this, show your parent who the real boss is! This is the place to get your competitive juices flowing.

Do you consider yourself a great problem-solver? Put your skill to the test at **Escape109** in Davidson or **Out of Time Escape** in Huntersville where you can choose from a variety of different themed escape rooms. You'll have 60 minutes to try to successfully escape. If you get stumped during your escape attempt, they will offer clues, but don't use too many if you'd like to place your mark on their all-time leaderboard.