

CHAPEL HILL: NORTH CAROLINA'S UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

by Trish Fitzgerald

There are college towns and then there is Chapel Hill.

This leafy college town, abundant with quirky cafes, art galleries, hoop dreams and cherished college memories is filled with things to see and do. Often described as a "Southern Part of Heaven," and immortalized in Thomas Wolfe's "Look Homeward Angel," the town is, quite simply, one of the loveliest college towns around.

The University of North Carolina, dating back to 1795, and the oldest state university in the nation, is Chapel Hill's architectural centerpiece. Colorful stories of Thomas Wolfe, its most lionized literary son, and Michael Jordan, basketball player extraordinaire (class of 1986), are just a few famous names associated with the university.

Last year's spectacular NCAA basketball championship season was another crowning glory to the school's illustrious sports legacy. The Dean Dome, Kenan Stadium, the Bell Tower, Silent Sam, and the Old Well are familiar landmarks that dot the campus landscape. Culture, sports, great dining, unusual shopping and a genuine college town atmosphere make Chapel Hill a standout North Carolina destination.

Here's the value!

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Carolina Basketball Museum

What to See

The Chapel Hill Museum, tucked away on Franklin Street, the city's busiest thoroughfare and named after Benjamin Franklin, is an ideal starting point. Learning about local legends from musician James Taylor to playwright Paul Green and fashion designer Alexander Julian. There are also various artifacts and memorabilia detailing Chapel Hill's history.

The Ackland Art Museum houses one of the country's finest collections of Asian art. The Morehead Planetarium & Science Museum was the first planetarium on a college campus and where many early astronauts trained for NASA.

The fall season kicks off a range of cultural offerings with Memorial Hall, the performing arts center, staging

events from classical dance, jazz and theater.

For accommodations, the Carolina Inn, is the town's most historic inn and low-key elegance best describes the AAA Four-Diamond property, an historic landmark that is part of the town's legacy.

For southern cooking Mama Dip's Kitchen on Rosemary; if you want a homemade milkshake, Sutton's Drugstore on Franklin; barbeque is found at the Barbeque Joint; gelato is found at Sugarlands and Tyler's Tap Room serves fresh salads, sandwiches and an array of beer brews. ☪

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Morehead Planetarium & Science Center



Ackland Art Museum