

# Buildings, Beauty, and Barbecue In Shelby

The city of **Shelby**, about halfway between Charlotte and Asheville, has a thriving artist community, amazing history and architecture, a new winery, and some of the best lip-smacking, real pit barbecue in western NC, all within a few miles of uptown. So, bring a camera and your appetite for this road trip... and don't forget to ride the carousel!

## 1-Day Itinerary

### Day 1

Stroll through the Historic District by foot, ride the hand-carved carousel, sample the wares of a local vineyard, then belly up to Bridges' famous barbecue!



*With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend you enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interests. Be sure and check days and hours of operation for each venue.*

### Day One

Start your visit in uptown **Shelby** at the Chamber of Commerce office building and pick up brochures for the Historic District Walking Tour and Art District Guide to help guide you through the area.

The first building you'll pass on your walking tour is the former **Cleveland County Court House**. This building, constructed in 1907, is the crown jewel of uptown Shelby. It was designed by H.F. Newman and is a stunning example of Classical Revival architecture of that period.

As you continue on your walking tour, you will be walking through a real-life museum of architecture styles, including Egyptian Revival (**The Masonic Temple**, 1924), Colonial Revival (old **Post Office**,

1916), Gothic Revival (**Central United Methodist Church**, 1924, and **First Baptist Church**, 1911) and Art Deco (**Roger's Theatre**, 1930s).

However, you will also notice some 'indoor' art on your walk, as uptown Shelby is also home to several thriving galleries and studios, specializing in many art forms. Check out the framing at the **Frame Masters Gallery**, the art and handcrafts at **Buffalo Creek Gallery** and **Synergy Studios**, intricate quilts at **Alley Quilts**, beautiful pottery at **Allen Griffin Pottery**, and photography at the **Victorian Rose Studio & Gallery** in the old Charles Hotel.

Now that you've had your fill of art and history, it's time for the kind of art that puts the 'fun' back in 'functional', the handcrafted carousel at **Shelby City Park**. The carousel was built circa 1919, and brought to Shelby in the 1950s. Twenty-nine original horses and three hand-carved replacements were recently restored, while an authentic working Carousel Band Organ provides the stirring music. It's one of the last 'year-round' carousels left in a traditional park location, so let your inner child take a ride.

Then, head north of downtown about three miles and stop at **Owl's Eye Vineyard**, which opened in the spring of 2008. The tasting room is open from Thursday through Sunday, and for five dollars you can sample several of the vineyard's varietals. You'll even get to keep your engraved wine glass.

As you conclude your busy day, be sure and make a stop at **Bridges Barbecue Lodge** on US Highway 74, part of the NC Barbecue Trail. You'll probably actually smell the restaurant before you see it, because the giant outdoor barbecue pit sends an alluring hickory-pork aroma wafting in all directions. Be sure and get the works: some 'cue, slaw, hushpuppies, and the super-sweet but addictive tea. Top it off with Bridges' homemade peach cobbler, and you'll be headed home with a full belly and some very satisfied taste buds!

**For more information:**

Cleveland County Chamber  
Travel & Tourism Division

[www.clevelandchamber.org/visitor/index.asp](http://www.clevelandchamber.org/visitor/index.asp)

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