

## **Cows & Cats, Corn & Cakes in Chatham County**

It's just a short drive to the southwest from the urban centers of Raleigh and Durham, but it feels like it's a world away. Take this relaxing trip through rural areas and small towns, and enjoy fine food, Southern Hospitality, and a spooky local legend while you're here.

### **2-Day Itinerary**

#### **Day 1**

See the famous 'belted' cows and some big cats, then sit down to a warm plate of North Carolina barbecue!

#### **Day 2**

Test your courage at the Devil's Stomping Ground, get lost in a corn maze, then milk a goat in Siler City.



*With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 2-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.*

## **Day One**

Begin with a light breakfast at **The Belted Goat** and a tour of **Fearrington Village**. The gardens and shops are unique and distinctive; enjoy a multitude of scenic picture-taking opportunities. Kids and adults alike will enjoy seeing the **Belties** (Belted Galloway cows) and goats. Some popular shops for all ages include **McIntyre's Books** and **The Potting Shed**. Continue touring **Pittsboro** with a trip downtown (just 10 minutes away), where the county courthouse, a historic landmark, is in the center of it all. Enjoy lunch at an old-fashioned soda shop with burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, and more. The ice cream, milkshakes, and orangeades are very popular, as is the '50s décor, complete with jukebox and other artifacts at **S&T's Soda Shoppe**.

Walk the Catwalk at one of the region's hidden treasures, the **Carnivore Preservation Trust**, a wildlife sanctuary offering guided "big cat" tours that are up close and personal (and safe) with an opportunity to see more than 100 exotic animals. See tigers, kinkajous, ocelots, binturongs, servals, leopards, and more. The tour lasts two and a half hours and questions are welcome. It's open year-round, with twilight tours available in warmer months.

Ride through **Bynum** before dinner to see the work of an eccentric and unique character, Clyde Jones. Many yards throughout Bynum display colorful wooden animals, specially created by Clyde. Nothing completes a full day like a hearty southern meal of North Carolina barbeque, complete with hush puppies and sweet tea. A thick milkshake at **Allen & Son Pit-Cooked Bar-B-Que** in Pittsboro is the perfect liquid dessert.

## **Day Two**

Enjoy breakfast or lunch at **The General Store Café** or **Carolina Brewery** (brunch is available in some locations on weekends only). Afterwards, visit the **Lee Farms Corn Maze** in the early autumn, or see some other farms and the cooperative grocery and café, **Chatham Marketplace**.

Are you up for a little scare? Take NC 902 from Pittsboro to the **Devil's Stomping Ground**. It is a barren 40-foot circle in the middle of the forest, just a few miles outside of Bear Creek. Local folklore states that it is here where the Devil himself paces while plotting his evil deeds, and that nothing has ever or will ever grow there. Some

visitors report glowing red eyes coming from the circle, while others say that mechanical objects stop working while inside the circle. At the very least, it's good for a picture... if your camera functions. Then, tour, taste, and shop at **Southern Supreme** in Bear Creek, the state's largest producer of nutty fruitcakes. Tour the cooking stations and watch as they create cakes, cookies, chocolate treats, jams, jellies and much more. Sample the sweets and shop.

Venture toward Siler City afterwards and make a trip to watch (or help) as they milk goats at the **Inn at Celebrity Goat Dairy Bed & Breakfast** at 6pm or 8pm. Have dinner in downtown Siler City and tour the shops, including the **Farmers Alliance** (in business since 1888), clothing stores, a bookstore and more.

**Where to eat:**

The Belted Goat (Pittsboro) – breakfast, lunch  
S & T's Soda Shoppe (Pittsboro) – lunch, dinner  
Allen & Son Pit Cooked Bar-B-Que (Pittsboro) –lunch, dinner  
The General Store Cafe (Pittsboro) – breakfast, lunch, dinner  
Carolina Brewery (Pittsboro) – lunch, dinner

**For more information:**

Pittsboro – Siler City Convention & Visitor's Bureau  
[www.visitpittsboro.com](http://www.visitpittsboro.com)

*October 2008*