

Re-Crafting the Great Outdoors

Enjoy this crafty itinerary, where you'll meet some of the people who craft the great outdoors into beautiful gardens and recreation spots. Visit a premiere zoo teeming with animals. Revel in outdoor art.

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

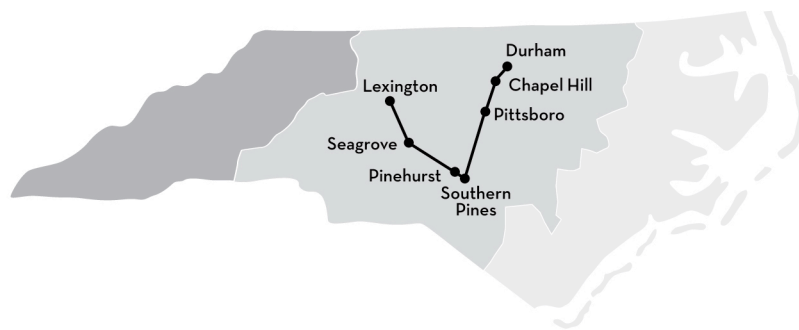
Gardens, butterflies and entertainment in Durham

Day 2

History, food and shopping in Chapel Hill

Day 3

Seagrove pottery, Lexington barbecue, Asheboro's premier natural-habitat zoo



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Durham:

The trailhead for this tour is the **Sarah P. Duke Gardens** in Durham, a place where people of all backgrounds and ages come for beauty, education, horticulture, solitude, discovery, study, renewal and inspiration. Often spoken of as the "Crown Jewel of Duke University," this garden is recognized as one of the premier public gardens in the United States.

Enjoy lunch at one of Durham's celebrated restaurants. Then spend an afternoon at the **Magic Wings Butterfly House**, the largest museum butterfly house east of the Mississippi. The three-story tropical conservatory features rare and enchanting species of butterflies from

Asia, Africa and Central and South America. View beds of exotic flowers, a flowering meadow, tropical fruit trees in a rainforest and a stream garden.

Spend your evening at **Brightleaf Square** in the West End of downtown Durham, with shops, nationally acclaimed restaurants and nightclubs. This area includes turn-of-the century tobacco warehouses with art galleries, jewelers and specialty shops.

Day Two

Chapel Hill:

Today begins with a short drive to Chapel Hill and the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. Enjoy a walk down scenic Franklin Street and downtown Chapel Hill. Meander through the heart of the nation's first state university, founded in 1793. As you wander, see how 730 acres were crafted into the core of this respected University's campus.

Work up an appetite for a hearty lunch at **Mama Dip's** where truly crafty cookbook author Mama Dip has been cooking down-home Southern food since she was 9 years old. Her restaurant offers a menu full of traditional Southern fare, especially fresh vegetables.

In the afternoon, it's time for a shopping trip at **A Southern Season**. In 1975, A Southern Season opened as a tiny coffee roastery. These days, the store has expanded; in fact, the National Association of the Specialty Food Trade selected this store as "2004 Outstanding Retailer of the Year." Browse 60,000 square feet of gifts and gourmet specialties.

If you're exploring downtown Chapel Hill, you're bound to run into Carrboro. The Durham-Greensboro Southern Railway line built their depot here in the late 1800s in an effort to keep noisy trains from bothering the busy academics at The University of North Carolina. Wander the **Weaver Street Market**, a cooperative dedicated to supporting local farmers, providing for community needs with plenty of attention to the environment. Continue your excursion in the shops and galleries of the **Carr Mill Mall**, a restored textile mill. Built in the 1880s, this mill was once a central part of the Carrboro economy. Today, the mill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Day Three

Seagrove:

About an hour and a half away from Chapel Hill, you'll find **Seagrove**, an area quickly becoming known as one of the world's premier pottery centers. Nestled in the heart of the rural North Carolina countryside, this area has long been the home of some of the world's most talented and well-known potters. Stroll through galleries and shops. See potters creating vessels on their wheels, and you just might catch

demonstrations of glazing, turning and the loading and firing of kilns.

Asheboro:

Cruise up 15 miles to Asheboro and the **North Carolina Zoo**. This is the largest walk-through natural-habitat zoo in the United States. Enjoy the exotic environments carefully crafted by architects and groundskeepers to make animals like elephants, polar bears and giraffes feel at home on the lush forestland of the North Carolina Piedmont.

Lexington:

Next, take a 30-mile drive to Lexington. Before dinner, make a stop at the **Bob Timberlake Gallery** to experience the magic of the world-renowned master of rural landscapes. Peruse limited edition prints, posters, furniture and more, and enjoy a collection of quilts, canoes, decoys and other memorabilia.

Chow down on legendary barbecue at the **Lexington Bar-B-Q Center**. This town of 20,000 residents boasts over 20 barbecue restaurants and is known as "The Hickory Smoked Barbecue Capital of the World." In fact, this North Carolina specialty is so tasty that the town welcomes over 100,000 visitors over one weekend every autumn for its legendary Barbecue Festival.

For more information:

Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.durham-nc.com

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau
www.chocvb.com

Randolph County Tourism Development Authority
www.visitrandolph.org

Lexington Tourism Authority
www.visitlexingtonnc.com