Biking in Orange County:

Orange County is home to many scenic routes and destinations perfect for a bike ride. Whether you’re a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, there’s something for everyone.

**The Orange County Bikeway**: This is a network of bicycle facilities in North Carolina. To download a PDF of the bikeways online, visit [http://townofcarrboro.org/bikeway](http://townofcarrboro.org/bikeway).

**Orange County Visitors Center**: Find maps of cross-state, regional, and local bicycle routes, including a range of scenic, paved and unpaved routes. Contact phone: 919-968-2060, website: [www.chocvb.org](http://www.chocvb.org).

**UNiversity Planetarium**: Visit the planetarium on campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is located at 120 E. Cameron Ave. To contact the university planetarium, call 919-962-1236 or visit [www.moreheadplanetarium.org](http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org).

**Lindley Farm Park**: This park is just off New Sharon Church Road on Route 1, one of the oldest Native American trails in the area. The Lindley Farm Park offers a wide range of outdoor activities, including hiking and single-track mountain biking trails. The park is closed from December, 1870 until September, 1871.

**Orange County Farms**: Discover local farms with directions to Orange County Farms: [www.orangecountyfarms.org/index.asp](http://www.orangecountyfarms.org/index.asp).

**Carr Mill Mall**: This mall is located on the west side of Hillsborough with 2600 acres of deep forests and abundant wildlife. It offers a variety of shops and restaurants.

**Orange County’s 200-year history**: Located within 15 miles of Orange County are many long-standing and historically significant locations. Orange County is home to the first public university in the United States – the University of North Carolina. Orange County is also the site of the first public hospital in the United States – the Orange County Poor House. The Orange County Courthouse was built in 1857 and is located in Hillsboro. The courthouse is located on the corner of West Main Street and North Second Street.

**Orange County History**: The history of Orange County is rich and diverse, spanning from its early Native American settlements to its modern-day communities. The county was founded in 1753 and has been a hub of activity for many years. Today, Orange County is a thriving destination for visitors and residents alike, offering a wealth of historical and cultural experiences.
The blog post discusses the history and significance of Orange County, North Carolina. It highlights the establishment of the county in 1771, its role as a source of drinking water for the University of North Carolina, and its contributions to the Civil War, including the production of pine tar, pitch, and turpentine. The post also covers the town of Hillsborough, which was founded around 1793 and is known for its restored architecture and historical sites, such as the Ruffin-Roulhac House and the Old Courthouse. It mentions the Coker Arboretum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which is recognized as a significant natural area in the state. The post also touches on the significance of the Outer Banks, particularly Cape Hatteras, and the contributions of Orange County residents to the Civil War and the development of the aerospace industry. The post concludes by encouraging readers to explore Orange County and appreciate its rich history and natural beauty.
ABOUT THE MAP

Whether you wish to take a short ride, an all-day trip or a longer overnight tour, all the information you need to plan your ride is on this map. The 206-mile system of Orange County bicycle routes, highlighted on the map in different colors, consists of four signed routes totaling 158 miles and an additional 48 miles of unsigned connector routes. By combining these routes in different ways, you can create a variety of trip options.

In addition to showing the bike routes, this map includes a wealth of other information. The locations of all services such as convenience stores, campgrounds and restaurants are pinpointed with symbols, as shown in the legend. Towns that provide overnight accommodations, restaurants and other amenities are marked with a star. Points of interest are marked with a red dot. The names of all roads that are part of the route system or which cross a route are shown. Busier sections of the routes, where extra caution is recommended, are clearly indicated. On the road, “Share the Road” signs posted on these portions of the routes remind motorists and bicyclists to remain alert.

Enlarged maps of Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Hillsborough, Mebane and Efland provide greater detail to help you navigate these areas and locate points of interest.

BICYCLE LAWS

In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the same regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle. Under North Carolina law, bicyclists are required to:

• Ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic.
• Obey all traffic signs and signals.
• Use hand signals to communicate intended movements.
• Equip each bicycle for night riding with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet.

In addition, cyclists under the age of 16 are required by North Carolina law to wear a bicycle helmet approved by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SAFETY TIPS

• Ride defensively and in a predictable manner.
• Wear a bicycle helmet every time you ride your bike.
• Avoid riding at night if possible.
• Be courteous to other road users.
• Keep traffic flowing by helping motorists pass safely.

A NOTE OF CAUTION

The highlighted routes on this map follow roads of the North Carolina highway system, local streets and, in a few cases, paved greenways. Most of these roads do not include any special accommodations for bicyclists, such as paved shoulders or bike lanes. Care has been taken to select routes that are lightly traveled. In a few places, however, the routes on short segments of roads heavily traveled to make connections where no alternative exists. These areas are marked with “Share the Road” signs to alert motorists to the possible presence of bicyclists on the road. Some such areas carry higher volumes of traffic during commute times. The Orange County bicycle routes are not designed to be used by children because their ability to judge traffic conditions and other actions is not sufficiently developed.

ORANGE COUNTY BICYCLING MAP