

Quick Trips

Featured Family Destination:



Raleigh, NC

Beneath the surface of legislative buildings and government official, Raleigh has become home to a lavish art scene and a breeding ground for the aspiring musicians and local businesses alike. The North Carolina capital may not be the largest city in the state, but it certainly is jam-packed with hidden gems and jewels all over town.

Just in the downtown area alone, visitors can find any one of the many fun activities to do in the city just a few blocks away from the train station.

For your budding scientists, take your kids to **Marbles Kids Museum**, a children's science museum with hands-on activities and interactive exhibits funded by local businesses in the area. The loud and exciting atmosphere of learning is enough to excite your kids and even the kid inside you about the wondrous world of science. The museum is located on 201 E. Hargett Street. Hours are Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person and free for children under 1 years old.

The Marbles Kids Museum also features an IMAX theater where the museum shows documentaries about the natural world to motivate and inspire kids for a future of conservation, good health and to inspire a future interest in the sciences. The current documentaries showing are:

- Flight of the Butterflies 3D
- Journey to the South Pacific 3D
- Island of Lemurs: Madagascar 3D
- D-Day 3D: Normandy 1944
- Mysteries of the Unseen World 3D

Showtimes for each of these films vary per day, so be sure to check out the website when planning your family trip to the city. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$6 for children and senior citizens over aged 60 years.



For more science fun, the **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** is just the place for your aspiring scientists and you to explore and learn more about the natural world. This museum, located on 11 W. Jones Street, is the largest science museum in the Southeast, with expanding exhibits and a research center that is constantly making new discoveries in the fields of science to put on display for visitors to learn more about the developing world around us, everything from microbiology to the vast expanse of outer space. Plus, there's a little rainforest room in the museum where some of the rarest butterflies and a live sloth inhabit. Museum hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to

Depart on Train 80 from:

Charlotte	7:00 am
Salisbury	7:43 am
Greensboro	8:39 am
Arrive in Raleigh	10:25 am

Depart Raleigh on Train 79

Arrive:	4:50 pm
Greensboro	6:32 pm
Salisbury	7:24 pm
Charlotte	8:12 pm

For more details about these events, other events or travel plans, visit GoDowntownRaleigh.com.

5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, except for special exhibits, which rotate throughout the year. The current special exhibit is Rainforest Adventure, where visitors can have an interactive experience that empowers them to make a difference learning how essential rainforests are to human health and survival. This exhibit will be up until September 1. Admission to this exhibit is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children aged 3-12 and \$6 for students, seniors and military. Exhibit hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

If your kids find history to be their forte, be sure to visit the **North Carolina Museum of History**, located on 5 E. Edenton Street, right next to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This award-winning museum gives an in-depth exploration of the history of our beautiful state, including the state's first inhabitants, its part in the American Civil War and the Wright Brothers' discovery and success in flying the first airplane. Admission to the museum is free, except for special exhibitions, which rotating throughout the year. The exhibitions currently open or scheduled to open in this year are:

Cedars in the Pines: The Lebanese in North Carolina: 130 Years of History – Through August 31

Stagville: Black & White – Through January 25, 2015

Formed, Fired, and Finished: Art Pottery from the James-Farmer Collection – November 15, 2013 – August 2014

Watergate: Political Scandal & the Presidency Through August 10

For information about exhibition costs, feel free to call the museum at (919) 807-7900. Museum hours are from Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Raleigh is also home to **Videri Chocolate Factory**, a quaint chocolate factory in the heart of the city. Their chocolate is carefully crafted and available for sale, with flavors such as classic dark chocolate, dark milk chocolate, pink peppercorn chocolate and dark chocolate with sea salt. Part of the factory is open to public touring, which would make the perfect afternoon treat for you and your kids. After exploring, the chocolate factory has a shop to buy a bar of chocolate (or several!) as a gift or to treat yourself.

There is also a small café where you can enjoy your chocolate with a café au lait. Videri Chocolate Factory is located on 327 W. Davie Street, Suite 100. Factory hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Once you've satisfied your sweet tooth and you're ready for a meal on the town, Raleigh is home to unique and award-winning restaurants that can satisfy even the pickiest eaters.

Chuck's

Burgers, hotdogs, sandwiches, salads, milkshakes, vegetarian, kid-friendly
237 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh
(919) 322-0216

*Hours: Sunday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
Thursday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.*

The Remedy Diner

Vegan, vegetarian, salads, sandwiches, soups, brunch, kid-friendly
137 E. Hargett St., Raleigh
(919) 835-3553

Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Beasley's Chicken + Honey

Chicken and waffles, fried chicken, chicken pot pie, salads, brunch, kid-friendly
237 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh
(919) 322-0127

*Hours: Sunday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
Thursday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.*

The Borough

Sandwiches, salads, entrees, vegetarian
317 W. Morgan St., Raleigh
(919) 832-8433
Hours: Sunday-Saturday, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Oak City Meatball Shoppe

Meatball, sandwiches, sliders, hoagies, salads, vegetarian, kid-friendly
180 E. Davie St., Raleigh
(919) 714-9014
*Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.;
Friday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.*

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