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PUMPKIN

the pumpkin patch can be muddy.

Instagram: @bushnvine

CARRIGAN FARMS

Location: 1261 Oakridge Farm Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28115

Cost: \$15 per person.

Reservations are required.

What to know: The pumpkin patch is open through the end of October. Trips to the patch include a hayride and a pumpkin for each person. Closed-toed shoes or boots are recommended, and pets are not allowed. The haunted trail, Scarrigan Farms, is also open in October. Prices for the haunted trail range from \$25-\$45 per person and reservations can be made online.

Instagram: @carrigan_farms

CHERRY PLACE FARM

Location: 1922 Oakdale Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730

Cost: \$10 for ages 2 and up. Reservations are not required.

What to know: The pumpkin patch is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays from 1-6 p.m. through Oct. 29. All activities, including petting and feeding farm animals, a corn maze, and free popcorn, are included in the cost of admission. Pets are not allowed.

Instagram: @cherryplacefarm

HALL FAMILY FARM

Location: 445 W Rebound Rd., Lancaster, SC 29720

Cost: Admission is free, but pumpkins are 70 cents per pound.

What to know: You can enjoy a small and large corn maze, hayride, and kids zone that includes a jungle gym, birds nest, and corn silo for additional fees. Attractions are free for ages 2 and under.

Instagram: @hall.family.farm

HODGES FAMILY FARM

Location: 3780 Rocky River Rd., Charlotte, NC 28215

Cost: Parking is \$5 on Saturdays and Sundays. Reservations are not required.

What to know: The pumpkin patch will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. every day through the end of October. You can look forward to pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, interacting with farm animals, and plenty of opportunities for photos. On the weekends, hayrides will be offered, and the farm shop will be open. You can also purchase sweet treats, including kettle corn, funnel cakes, and drinks.

Instagram: @hodgesfarm_nc

THE HUNTER FARM

Location: 13624 Providence Rd., Weddington, NC 28104

Cost: \$12 for ages 2 and older. The cost includes a wagon ride to the petting barn and a small pumpkin from the patch.

Reservations are required for the wagon ride.

What to know: The fall season ends Nov. 5. Hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Dogs are not allowed.

Instagram: @thehunterfarm

PATTERSON FARM

Location: 10390 Caldwell Rd, Mt Ulla, NC 28125

Cost: \$15 for ages 2 and up on weekdays; \$17 for ages 2 and up on weekends. Pumpkins are not included in admission and are priced per pound.

Tickets can be purchased online.

What to know: Fall season ends Nov. 11.

Weekday admission includes access to the barnyard, PawPaw Carl's Play-

ground, corn maze, wagon

ride, and more than 40

attractions. Weekend ad-

mission includes access to the barnyard, play-

ground, corn maze, cow

barrel train ride, wagon

ride, and attractions. Dogs

are not allowed, except for

registered service dogs.

Instagram: @patterson_farm

RIVERBEND FARM

Location: 12150 McManus Rd, Midland, NC 28107

Neighborhood: Midland

Cost: \$6 for ages 2 and up. Pumpkins are 50 cents per pound. Reservations are not required.

What to know: The farm is open through the end of October. Hours are Monday-Friday 3:30-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays, 1-6 p.m.

Admission includes a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch, a barn with

animals, and a farm-themed playground.

Facebook: @Riverbend-Farm-118659738184594

SHELBY CORN MAZE & PUMPKIN PATCH

Location: 120 Broadway Dr., Shelby, NC 28152

Neighborhood: Shelby

Cost: Admission to the farm is \$15 and includes

access to the corn maze and more than activities.

Admission for the haunted

maze is \$15. Reservations are not required, but tickets can be purchased online.

What to know: The farm is open through Oct. 27.

Hours are Friday, 4-10 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 2-8 p.m.

The haunted maze opens after dark on Fridays and

Saturdays. Dogs are al-

lowed, but they must be

on leashes at all times.

Instagram: @shelbycornmaze

WISE ACRES

Location: 4701 Hartis Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28079

Cost: \$3 for ages 2 and up. You can pay an additional \$29 for two Wise Pie Pizzas. With your ticket, you'll get pumpkin field access, with pumpkins available for purchase. Reservations are required for the wagon ride.

What to know: The fall

season ends Nov. 3. Corn

pit access, wagon and

barrel train rides, food,

and drinks can be pur-

chased for additional fees.

Dogs are not allowed on

the farm.

Instagram: @wiseacresorganic

Evan Moore: @evaninclt

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RIDES

beginning Oct. 18. One-day unlimited ride wristbands can also be purchased for \$30.

You can also support Hurricane Helene relief efforts while purchasing your tickets. All money collected will go to the MANNA FoodBank of Asheville, which lost its distribution warehouse in the hurricane. When purchasing

fair tickets online, a "State Fair Cares" boxed link will pop up on the shopping cart page before you check out.

NC STATE FAIR FERRIS WHEEL AND SKY LIFT TICKETS

There are two rides that are not included with ride ticket cards or wristbands: the State Fair Flyer and the State Fair SkyGazer.

• The State Fair Flyer is a permanent ride at the fairgrounds that offers a 14-minute round trip ride over the midway. **One-way trip tickets are \$6 and round-trip tickets are \$9.**

• The State Fair SkyGazer is a 155-foot Ferris wheel that offers sight lines of up to 15 miles at the top. **Tickets are \$6.**

HOW CAN I CHECK THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH RIDE?

You can check the

height requirements for each ride online at powersgreatamericanmidways.com.

Note: Wristbands are not recommended for children under 36 inches tall, as there are a limited amount of rides they can safely ride. Parents with children under 48 inches tall should check the height requirements before purchasing to determine if wristbands offer the best value for their children.

Evan Moore: @evaninclt



The new culinary creations for the 2024 North Carolina State Fair include many deep fried wonders, even spaghetti.

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FAIR FOODS

onion, feta crumbles, kale chips and house-made beet barbecue sauce.

• Korean BBQ Kimchi Nachos

from Bulkgogi Korean BBQ: Nachos topped with chicken or beef Korean barbecue, corn beans, kimchi, jalapeños, mozzarella and nacho cheese.

• Loaded Bologna Fries

from Granny's Country Kitchen: Bologna fries battered and fried and loaded up with chili cheese sauce.

• Mema Mia from Ezzell's Something Good:

Deep-fried spaghetti with meat sauce nestled on top of a garlic parmesan toasted hoagie bun with extra meat sauce and cheese topped with sweet southern slaw.

• Mexican Street Corn

Nachos from Red Carpet Amusements: Nachos with cheese, corn, mayo, parmesan cheese and Tajin seasoning. Takis and Flamin' Hot Cheetos also available as optional toppings.

• Mexican Street Corn Potato

Potato from Spudastic Potato: Baked potato stuffed with Mexican street corn topped with cilantro and lime.

• Monster Tots

from Hot Chix Hotcakes & Chicken: Jumbo tater tots stuffed with either buffalo chicken or bacon cheddar and chive fillings.

• NC Crab and Shrimp Bomb

from Waypoint Oyster Bar: A ball of cheese, corn, blue crab meat and shrimp rolled in Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

• Philly Chicken Egg Roll

from Woody's Wing Wagon: Based on a Philly Roll, but with chicken instead of steak.

• Philly Eggroll

from Fresh AF Vegan: A vegan Philly eggroll served with veggie beef, onions, peppers and mushrooms wrapped in an eggroll and deep fried.

• Pineapple Bowl

from Brazilian Bowls: Pineapple bowls with rice or fries, charcoal chicken, Brazilian steak, island shrimp, black beans and corn and many extra toppings.

• Red Velvet Glazed Funnel Cake

from Mediterranean Grill: Nashville-style chicken on a red velvet funnel cake bun with sweet syrup and hot sauce.

• Sweet & Spicy Cheese Puff Fried Pickles

from Chester's Gators: Fried pickle chips and a drizzle of Ranch dressing.

• Pickle Dr. Pepper

from Red Carpet Amusements: It's a cup of Dr. Pepper served with dill pickle chips.

• Dill Delight Funnel

Cake from The Busy Baker: Funnel cake with powdered sugar, Ranch dressing and dill pickles.

• Sweet & Spicy Cheese Puff Fried Pickles

from Chester's Gators

• Tater Tots: Fried pickle chips drizzled in cheese sauce and topped with cheese puffs and a sweet & spicy sauce.

DRINKS**• Aqua Loca from Just Popping Around**

Lime juice, orange juice, tomato and grapefruit mixed together.

• Swedish Meat Pizza Cone

from Kona Pizza: Cone of pizza crust filled with mozzarella, meatballs, cranberry sauce and gravy.

• Sizzling Hot Funnel

Cake from The Busy Baker: Funnel cake with nacho cheese and Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

• ON-A-STICK

• Alaskan King Crab Pop

from Pioneer Wagon:

Fried, seasoned Alaskan King Crab skewered and topped with half a lemon.

• Mexican Street Corn

Nachos from Red Carpet Amusements:

Na-chos with cilantro and lime.

• Bacon Cheesburger Cone

from Pioneer Wagon:

Bacon and cheddar hand dipped in corn dog batter, topped with cheese and bacon.

• Big Bacon Wrapped in Cheese on a Stick

from Bubba's Bacon:

Deep-fried bacon and cheese on a stick.

• Honey Butter Mozza Dog

from GoldenDog:

Mozzarella cheese rolled in batter with panko then deep fried, drizzled with honey butter sauce.