Welcome to Carolina!

We’re excited to share eight must-see Chapel Hill moments designed to help you experience life as a Carolina student.

1. Coker Arboretum
What do you do if you’re Carolina’s first botany professor, Dr. William Coker? Create a campus oasis with hundreds of native North Carolina trees, shrubs and vines.

How Heels do it:
Find a bench and put up your feet. On sunny days, you’ll find students in this exact position, sipping coffee and reading for class.

2. Franklin Street
Franklin Street is home to everything you’ll need as a student: coffee shops, restaurants, a movie theater, and music venues.

How Heels do it:
Rush Franklin Street. When Carolina beats 'that school down the street, the first thing you’ll do is rush to Franklin Street to celebrate with thousands of Tar Heel fans. Snap a selfie with the Franklin Street sign to prove you were here.

3. The Old Well
Carolina’s most famous landmark was the original water source for the University, and tradition says a drink from the Old Well on the first day of class brings good luck and a perfect GPA. (We also recommend studying.)

How Heels do it:
Take a sip! Did we mention it’s good luck?

4. Polk Place
Welcome to Carolina’s main academic quad, named after alumnus and U.S. President James K. Polk.

How Heels do it:
Picture the possibilities. Stand at the flag pole in the center of the quad facing downhill. Take a panoramic photo. You’ll capture seven academic buildings, which house departments and schools from Chemistry to Journalism. Carolina offers students more than 70 majors.

5. Wilson Library
You’ll learn to love libraries as a Carolina student. Wilson is the University’s oldest and is home to the Southern Historical Collection, which documents the South through 15 million items.

How Heels do it:
Learn something new. Wilson houses the diary of Karen L. Parker, the first female African American to graduate from Carolina. A journalism major, Parker would go on to write for the Winston-Salem Journal, Grand Rapids Press, and LA Times.
6. Carmichael Arena
Here in Carmichael Michael Jordan helped lead Carolina men’s basketball to its 1982 national championship. Now women’s basketball plays in Carmichael and can claim a championship of their own: The women won it all in 1994.

How Heels do it:
Jump! Open your camera app, and strike that MJ pose – one arm stretched above your head, legs in a midair split. Now jump!

7. The Student Union
This is Carolina’s ‘living room’ where students come together for study groups, free movie nights, art installations and holiday gingerbread house building.

How Heels do it:
Be curious. Visit the information desk and ask the staff members about their favorite exhibit or performance. If the event is open to the public and happening now, stop by and enjoy it.

8. The Pit
Here in this sunken courtyard, campus thrives – you could see students campaigning for Student Body President, a Latin dance club performance, or a charity lunch to help combat global poverty.

How Heels do it:
Pit Sit. Grab a spot on the steps or find chair, and get off your feet. Congratulations, you’re ‘pit sitting!’ Take a moment, enjoy your day, and feel the energy of campus.