You’ve probably heard “Welcome to the Forest” already, and you’ll probably hear it again. We are honored to be included in your search for your next academic home.

We hope this self-guided tour book will give structure, coherence and enjoyment to your walk around our campus. We also hope you’ll hold onto it as a keepsake and a reminder of your visit to the Forest.

Before we begin, we want you to know you should feel free to explore areas of interest around each site.
The Porter Byrum Welcome Center, widely known as the front porch of Wake Forest, isn’t merely the start of the tour; it’s the start of a process. As home to the Office of Admissions, it is the site of your first information session and, if you choose, an in-person interview. It is also the destination of your application for admission, which the staff will carefully consider.

Take a right outside of the Byrum Welcome Center and walk to the bottom of the hill. There, use the walkway on your left to cross the street to Scales Fine Arts Center.

Scales is where magic happens. The hub of the campus’ rich arts culture, it includes an art gallery, a recital hall for musical performances, two theatres, and studios for painting, photography, sculpture and printmaking.

The event calendar at Scales shows a mix of art forms and production styles. On the formal side, the various venues host four faculty-directed plays or musicals, two dance recitals and several guest performances each year. But we also know how to let our hair down a bit.

Among student favorites is the Lilting Banshees comedy troupe, whose alumni include Sarah Schneider ('05). She worked as a writer on “Saturday Night Live” from 2011 to 2017 — including a season as a co-head writer — and co-created her own Comedy Central show, “The Other Two.”

At Wake Forest, we infuse every student's experience with the arts, developing graduates who are curious, interdisciplinary problem solvers.
Like most of our residence halls, Taylor is a coed, suite-style building. It’s home to one of our personal favorites: our student-run coffee shop, Campus Grounds, aka the lifeblood of this place.

Taylor’s also home to the Campus Bookstore, aka the other lifeblood of this place.

You may have noticed the Greek letters on Taylor’s corner towers. Those towers and others are designated space for fraternities and sororities on campus. (About 30% of Wake Forest men join fraternities and about 60% of women are in sororities.)

Next, walk up the sidewalk next to Scales’ upper building. Cross the street at the top of the hill and proceed through Parking Lot B to Taylor Residence Hall.

From the side of Taylor Hall, you can see the Arch. Pass through it and then take a left at the top of the stairs.

The Arch is a replica of the arch on our original campus in the town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, 100 miles east of here. Making a bold but transformative move, Wake Forest College packed up 122 years of history and relocated in 1956.

Turn left and walk past the front of Taylor Hall.
We’ve reached our campus’ centerpiece, Wait Chapel. It is named for Rev. Samuel Wait, a Baptist minister from New England who became our founder and first president. Wait, a traveling fundraiser for another college at the time, was delayed in North Carolina in 1827 when his horse bolted from the carriage. Wait quickly got to know and impress the members of the community, and when he accepted their offer to remain, he set in motion what we know as Wake Forest University.

Wake Forest was founded by leaders of the North Carolina Baptist Convention and remained affiliated for much of its history, but the relationship ended amicably in 1986.
Facing Wait Chapel, head to your left and proceed along the left side of the chapel to the staircase. Go down the stairs and follow the sidewalk to the end. Turn right.

You’ll pass Wingate Hall, which is attached to Wait Chapel and is home to the School of Divinity. One of the nation’s youngest divinity schools, ours is recognized for helping change the world for the better.

Highlights of Wait Chapel’s history as a venue include a 1962 address by Martin Luther King Jr., presidential debates in 1988 and 2000 watched by 102.6 million television viewers between them, and University convocations.

For more than 50 years, it has been the home to the largest event of its kind in North America. The Moravian Lovefeast is a cherished holiday tradition that features sweetened Moravian bread and coffee and seasonal songs by candlelight.

And, if you’re here around 5 p.m., you’ll hear Wait Chapel’s carillon. The bells collectively weigh more than 11 tons, but you’d never know it by the grace of their songs.

As the site of celebratory traditions like Rolling the Quad, philanthropic events like Hit the Bricks and academic milestones like Commencement, Hearn Plaza (the quad) is the heart of campus.
At the end of the sidewalk look straight ahead and you will see Dogwood and Magnolia Residence Halls, which are part of the recent campus transformation. These residence halls, built in 2013, include spaces conducive for group meetings and equipped with top-shelf technology.

Next to them is North Campus Dining Hall, which opened in 2014 and was almost immediately recognized as one of the nation’s best campus dining halls. The building also has the newer of two Starbucks locations; the other is in ZSR Library.
Farrell Hall became the new home of the School of Business in 2013. Farrell is the academic hub for roughly 20% of all juniors and seniors and for several hundred graduate students. The School of Business is known for being ahead of the curve in all it offers by predicting market needs and adjusting curriculum accordingly. The welcoming, bright, spacious atrium is one of the most popular spaces on campus. It's definitely worth a look.

Keep proceeding to the right along the sidewalk.

At the intersection, look to the left and up the hill and you may be able to see the School of Law, ranked among the nation’s top 35 and recognized nationally for its community outreach. Clinics in actual innocence, veterans affairs, elder law and other service areas are vital to our Pro Humanitate mission.

Across Wake Forest Road is Kentner Stadium, home of our three-time NCAA field hockey champions and our track teams. Kentner is one of two major sports venues on this campus. The other is Spry Stadium, which an ncaa.com fan survey recently called the nation’s second-best spot to watch college soccer.

The football, baseball and men’s and women’s basketball teams play about a mile away on Deacon Boulevard. They have helped the Demon Deacons to national prominence in the nation’s toughest conference, the ACC.

Look diagonally across the street and you’ll see the Wake Forest Wellbeing Center.
The construction of the Sutton Center (the first building on the left) in 2016 and the renovation of adjacent Reynolds Gym a year later immediately made this a more active campus.

Screen-equipped cardio machines, weights, a rock climbing wall, a dance studio, basketball courts, a pool and classroom space are just some of the amenities that draw people in and keep them coming back.

The upper floor is the home court of our Demon Deacon volleyball team.

The Wellbeing Center is also home to Campus Recreation, which serves almost every student. We estimate that 88% of undergrads participate in at least one intramural team or individual sport at some point. The Student Health Service, as you might expect, is headquartered here as well. All enrolled students are eligible for service and a student health fee covers all routine office visits.

If time allows, take a look around and see everything this compelling place has to offer.

Next, turn to the right and proceed back toward Hearn Plaza.

You'll pass Campus Kitchen, a student-run organization that prepares more than 10,000 meals a year for the local community. The Campus Kitchen movement, which has gone national, was born here in 1999.
Reynolda Hall is home to several student service offices, including the University Registrar, where academic standing and class schedules are certified; the Office of Student Financial Aid; the Office of Sustainability; the Center for Global Programs and Studies (GPS), which oversees the programs in which 60% or so of Wake Forest students study in another country or in Washington, D.C., at some point as undergraduates; and the Office of Personal and Career Development, a national leader in helping graduates start their post-college lives. In recent years, 97% of graduates have found employment or graduate school placement within six months of receiving Wake Forest degrees.

Reynolda also features the University’s main dining area. The Fresh Food Company is unofficially but most commonly called The Pit because of its basement locale. The Pit’s wide variety of options and its proximity to most academic buildings make it a popular meeting spot for faculty and students.
If you head through Reynolda and onto the patio, you will have a view of Manchester Plaza, aka the Magnolia Quad, which is encircled by academic buildings. Proceed down the left staircase.

The third building on the left side of Manchester Plaza, Carswell Hall, is where we offer many of our communications, sociology and economics classes. Carswell is also home to one of Wake Forest’s most renowned organizations, the debate team. Two National Debate Tournament titles, championships from the Atlantic Coast Conference and other distinctions make debate an important part of our campus culture. In taking on diverse viewpoints in responsible dialogue, Wake Forest’s debate participants send a message — the importance of civil public discourse — that transcends the specific subject matter.

All told, more than 20 academic majors or programs are annually ranked in the nation’s top 10% for academic quality, graduates’ salaries or both by a firm affiliated with USA Today.

Head to the cross street.
You’ll be looking at Bostwick Hall (on your left) and Johnson Hall (on your right), two of the seven first-year residence halls on campus. Together, the on-campus residence halls create a community.

Among the defining traits of new student life at Wake Forest is the Faculty Fellows program, in which three faculty members have an office presence in each hall. The Fellows are available for students to ask questions, and they organize residence hall-wide book clubs, guest speaker events and other functions. They are tremendous resources for adaptation to a new and exciting phase of a student’s life.

As to the dorm rooms, they are equipped with cable TV, Wi-Fi and ethernet connections and a combined microwave-freezer appliance. Laundry in the residence halls is free.

Students are required to live on campus for three years but are guaranteed the fourth year if they choose on-campus housing. Students can also bring a car onto campus for all four years, but a subscription service, ZipCar, is available as well.

Look to your left and across the street.

You will see two newly completed athletics projects. They are training and office facilities that collectively serve all student-athletes at Wake Forest. Demon Deacons meet high standards in competitive and academic attainment. In the most recently released NCAA report, our graduation rate is 94%.
You’ll pass Tribble Hall, the home of humanities disciplines, on your left.

Go past Tribble and the building in front of you is Benson University Center, a comprehensive student organization, resource and dining facility. Benson's five stories include a movie theatre; a restaurant; a food court featuring Chick-fil-A, Moe's Southwest Grill and Fresh Greens, a healthy-eating location; meeting space for student government; the Intercultural Center; the LGBTQ Center; the Women's Center; and student media, including the Old Gold & Black and Wake Radio.

Proceed to your left between Tribble Hall and Benson University Center, up the stairs and to the right.

This will bring you to the front of Z. Smith Reynolds Library, nationally recognized for its service and constant adaptation. In addition to the basics — 1.8 million volumes of information — ZSR is home to The Bridge, the computer-support hub of campus, and to a staff of innovative professionals who never forget they are here to help students learn. That support comes in the form of some unconventional events around exam times — such as a late-night buffet, therapy dogs and ice cream. ZSR also houses the Writing Center, which 60% of our students use to help navigate the challenges of college writing — particularly for research papers.

Recent renovations have built on ZSR’s legacy and reputation as an outstanding study spot.
Facing away from ZSR, turn left and head down the sidewalk to the buildings dedicated to natural sciences.

You’ll pass Olin Physical Laboratory, Salem and Winston Halls, in that order. These buildings and their labs work hand in hand with a partner located a 13-minute shuttle ride away.

That partner is Wake Downtown, a state-of-the-art satellite campus dedicated chiefly to biomedical sciences and engineering. There, undergraduates often work alongside students and faculty from the University’s acclaimed medical school in newly developed programs and majors, including engineering. Shuttle buses leave regularly for the pleasant, Wi-Fi-equipped 13-minute ride. One of the stops is right in front of Benson.

More than one-third of undergraduates have taken a class at Wake Downtown, which makes room for both sides of the brain. Courses in philosophy, English, entrepreneurship and several other non-STEM disciplines have been housed in our newest academic jewel.

Walk to the end of the sidewalk and cross safely. You’ll see a blue call box.

The call box is just one of the campus’ many safety measures. Wake Forest is a very secure campus. In addition to the call boxes, the property is gated, the University employs its own police force, the residence halls can be accessed only with a Wake Forest identification card and the University provides its students with an after-dark shuttle system. You may also notice an alert siren that is part of our Wake Alert program to keep our community informed in emergency situations.

Take a left onto Wake Forest Road and head back to the Byrum Welcome Center.

This brings us to the end of the tour. We hope you enjoyed visiting the place we call home.