



# CHARLOTTE

From dining and drinks to exploring and adventure, the Queen City has a lot to offer. Find the fun to be found in Charlotte and learn the ABCs of CLT.

An aerial photograph of the Charlotte skyline at sunset. The image features several prominent skyscrapers, including the Bank of America Corporate Center with its distinctive spire. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The foreground shows a dense cluster of buildings, while the background shows a vast, green landscape under a hazy sky. The image is overlaid with large, white, stylized letters 'A', 'TO', and 'C' that form the word 'ATOC'.

TO



## a. ATHLETICS

Root for the home teams at one of Charlotte's local sporting events. In Uptown, both the NFL's Carolina Panthers and MLS's Charlotte FC play at Bank of America Stadium, the NBA's Charlotte Hornets call the Spectrum Center their "Hive," and the AAA Charlotte Knights defend the diamond at Truist Field. Catch the Charlotte Checkers, AHL's 2019-2020 season President's Award recipient, at Bojangles Coliseum and USL League One's Charlotte Independence, the highly celebrated soccer precursor to MLS's Charlotte FC, at Memorial Stadium. Golfers, pack your clubs to tee off at one of Charlotte's golf courses – the ultra-exclusive Quail Hollow Club hosted the Presidents Cup, Wells Fargo Championship and the PGA Championship – or book Topgolf Charlotte for a more casual, group-friendly experience.



## b. BREWERIES

Check out what's on tap at any of the region's 60-plus breweries. Try unique brews at Lenny Boy Brewing Co. and award-winning pours at NoDa Brewing Company or sip at other local favorites like Wooden Robot Brewery, Triple C Brewing Company and Legion Brewing. In the craft-heavy LoSo district, crawl from Olde Mecklenburg Brewery to Sugar Creek Brewing Company to Brewers at 4001 Yancey, which houses Southern Tier Brewing Company and Victory Brewing.



## c. COMMUNITY

Experience community vibes at neighborhood farmers markets. Year-round markets include Kings Drive Farmers Market, Charlotte Regional Farmers Market and Atherton Mill & Market, as well as those in the nearby towns of Matthews and Davidson, among others. Seasonal markets like Rosa Parks Farmers Market are a great way to get to know our historic communities. Additionally, gathering spaces like Camp North End, The Market at 7th Street and Food Truck Fridays feature live music, food and drinks.



## d. DOWNLOAD

Book a relaxing stay at one of Charlotte's top luxury hotels – The Ivey's Hotel, Kimpton Tryon Park Hotel, The Ritz-Carlton and many others are in Uptown and within walking distance of Broadway shows, fine dining and award-winning museums and attractions. A short drive from Uptown is The Ballantyne, which boasts a spa and The Gallery restaurant. Popular day spas like Urbana Wellness Spa, Re Salon & Med Spa and Clean Your Dirty Face also offer much needed R&R.





## e. EATS

Dine like royalty throughout the Queen City with James Beard-nominated chefs like Joe Kindred of Kindred Restaurant, Greg Collier of Leah & Louise, or Bruce Moffett of Barrington's; during cooking classes at Chef Alyssa's Kitchen; at low-key locales like Mert's Heart and Soul and Mac's Speed Shop; or aboard a luxury yacht with Lake Norman's Queens Landing Sightseeing & Dinner Cruises.

## f. FESTIVALS + EVENTS

Join in city celebrations throughout the year! Our communities come together for annual events like Festival of India, Hola Charlotte, Yiasou Greek Festival, Tuck Fest and dozens of art and music festivals like Charlotte International Arts Festival and Charlotte SHOUT!. Don't miss bucket list festivals and events like Circle K Speed Street, weeklong Charlotte Pride celebrations, and the historic Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade.

## g. GREENERY

Stroll through the tranquil grounds at Charlotte-area gardens like Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, McGill Rose Garden, Wing Haven Gardens & Bird Sanctuary or UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens. Short on time? Opt for one of the city's scenic parks like Charlotte's largest park and host to the annual Festival in the Park, Freedom Park, or Uptown's The Green, Romare Bearden Park and First Ward Park.

## h. HISTORY

Peek into Charlotte's past at The Charlotte Museum of History (home to the county's oldest-surviving structure, the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite). The Levine Museum of the New South has embarked on a mission to create community as they deliver programming digitally, in-person and in non-traditional spaces. The Queen City also has a number of stunning turn-of-the-century homes in Uptown's Fourth Ward neighborhood and in Myers Park with inns like The Duke Mansion offering tours and garden visits. Regionally, retrace Revolutionary War roots at Historic Brattonsville; explore Reed Gold Mine, the location of the nation's first gold discovery in 1799; and walk the grounds of President James K. Polk State Historic Site and learn about the nation's 11th president.







## **i.** INSPIRE

Tromp about town to see the city's public art. Murals located throughout Uptown, NoDa, Plaza Midwood and South End offer picture-perfect photo backdrops, and the Firebird statue on the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art's plaza is a Charlotte icon. Be sure to check out historic markers like the Four Corners Statues at the crossroads of Trade and Tryon streets and the statue of Captain James Jack off Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Legend has it that the captain carried the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the 1775 Continental Congress, a key piece of history celebrated annually on May 20, aka Meck Dec Day.

## **j.** JAM SESSIONS

Trade your briefcase for a jam session! May through September, check out the U.S. National Whitewater Center's River Jam concert series on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays or open-air concerts at PNC Music Pavilion and Charlotte Metro Credit Union Amphitheatre. Year-round, look for headliners at Spectrum Center, Bojangles Entertainment Complex, The Fillmore Charlotte, The Underground, Visulite Theatre, Neighborhood Theatre and The Evening Muse.

## **k.** KID FRIENDLY

Cross a daring rope bridge at Discovery Place Science (home to the largest IMAX Dome Theatre in the Carolinas) and try hands-on experiments at Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville. The Children's Theatre of Charlotte brings fairytales to life and Uptown's ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center sparks imaginations during story time.

## **l.** LEVINE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Enjoy an all-access pass to Charlotte's vibrant arts collections. Purchase a \$20 ticket from the Levine Center for the Arts, located in Uptown off South Tryon Street, and you'll have 48 hours to explore the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture and the Mint Museum Uptown (and the nearby Mint Museum Randolph) at your own pace. In addition to popular permanent exhibits, the museums also feature speakers, film festivals, monthly jazz ensembles and more.



## **m.** MALLS + MARKETS

Find some of the most sought-after brands at SouthPark Mall and luxury retailers at nearby shopping centers like Specialty Shops SouthPark and Phillips Place; shop till you drop at outlet favorites like Concord Mills and Charlotte Premium Outlets; or area malls Northlake Mall and Carolina Place Mall. In South End, Atherton Mill & Market houses local boutiques and national brands, and don't miss Uptown's The Market at 7th Street featuring Charlotte-made goods and food stalls.

## **n.** NIGHTLIFE

Explore Uptown's nightlife scene at Dandelion Market and Tequila House Nightclub. Close to Uptown you'll find AvidXchange Music Factory, which, in addition to housing a number of music venues, boasts a Latin dance club, comedy club, beer garden, late-night karaoke bar and the exquisite multi-level Bazal Gallery Nightclub combining art, fashion and cocktails for a must-experience night on the town.

## **o.** OUTDOORS

Take in the city's protected wilderness at Reedy Creek Nature Center & Nature Preserve, McDowell Nature Center and Preserve, Latta Nature Preserve, or Anne Springs Close Greenway. Rent bicycles through Charlotte B-cycle or third-party vendors and bike on Little Sugar Creek Greenway or beneath the treetops of Queens Road West. Spot the Magic Carpet Murals on the Charlotte Rail Trail in South End, hand-painted by locals.

## **p.** PRODUCTIONS

Catch an award-winning Broadway show during the PNC Broadway Lights Series at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center each year or cheer "Bravo!" at a performance by Opera Carolina, the largest professional opera company in the Carolinas. The Charlotte Ballet takes the stage at Knight Theater, Belk Theater or the Patricia McBride & Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux Center for Dance, and the Charlotte Symphony's picnic-style Summer Pops series is one of the city's most popular warm-weather traditions. Venues like NarroWay Theater, which stages Christian musicals, and Theatre Charlotte offer intimate, community-style productions.







## q. QUEEN CITY

Fall in love with Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city. Named for King George III's wife, Queen Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the QC was founded at the crossroads of two Native American trading routes, where Trade and Tryon streets now meet. In the years that followed, the city would boom thanks to the nation's first gold rush, a prosperous mill community and an influx of bankers. Now one of the fastest growing cities in the country, the Charlotte region is home to 2.7 million people and counting.

## r. RACING

Explore the region's auto racing roots at Charlotte Motor Speedway, home of NASCAR's only 600-mile race. In May, the speedway hosts the Coca-Cola 600, and the Roval 400 in September. In Uptown, the NASCAR Hall of Fame amplifies the fan experience with racing simulators, pit crew experiences and tributes to NASCAR legends. Indulge in on-track thrills at Charlotte Motor Speedway with the Richard Petty Driving Experience or NASCAR Racing Experience, or any of the area's go-kart experiences like The Speedpark at Concord Mills, Victory Lane Karting, K1 Speed and GoPro Motorplex.

## s. SIGHTSEEING

Tour Uptown and neighboring historic districts your way via Segway or bike with Charlotte NC Tours, by lantern with Carolina History & Haunts Charlotte Ghost Tours, during Funny Bus Comedy City Tour's BYOB stand-up comedy tour, or during a two-hour journey with C-Charlotte Tours or Queen City Rides. Taste the town with Taste Carolina Gourmet Food Tours or sample local crafts with City Brew Tours and the Trolley Pub.

## t. TRANSPORTATION

Scoot, ride, bike or walk around town with the many public transit options offered throughout the city. Many of Charlotte's neighborhoods are connected by the LYNX Blue Line light rail or the CityLYNX Gold Line Streetcar, and the Charlotte Area Transit Service (CATS) offers more than 70 local and regional bus routes. Explore like a local with scooter and bike rental services or ride-share companies like Lyft and Uber to get from place to place. Staying in Uptown? Leave the car behind and explore The Uptown grid, known for its walkability.







## **U.** UNIVERSITIES

Check out a UNC Charlotte 49ers game or cheer on your favorite college teams at the Duke's Mayo Bowl or ACC Championship at Bank of America Stadium. Schools like Johnson C. Smith University, Johnson & Wales University, Queens University and Central Piedmont Community College make the Queen City proud by representing Charlotte in tournament appearances, dishing out James Beard-nominated chefs and educating more and more students every year.

## **V.** VIEWS

Relish stunning skyline views at Charlotte's best rooftop restaurants and bars. Nuvolé Rooftop TwentyTwo, Fahrenheit Charlotte and Cloud Bar by David Burke in Uptown, Plaza Midwood's Whiskey Warehouse, Midtown's Devil's Logic Brewing, and The Gin Mill in South End are all Instagram-worthy options.

## **W.** WINERIES

Spend a day exploring the Charlotte-area wine country on the Swan Creek Wine Trail, featuring four vineyards for tasting and exploration, or Childress Vineyards, Shelton Vineyards, Veronét Vineyards & Winery or Treehouse Vineyards, where you can sip wine in a rented treehouse.

## **eX.** EXHILERATING

Experience record-breaking thrills at Charlotte's big-name attractions. Seated on the North and South Carolina state line, Carowinds theme park is home to Fury 325, the world's tallest and fastest giga coaster, and is known for the Intimidator, the 80-mph coaster inspired by racing legend Dale Earnhardt. Keep the adrenaline pumping at the U.S. National Whitewater Center which lays claim to the world's largest man-made whitewater river. In addition to Class II to IV rapids, the USNWC offers kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, rock climbing, zip lines, ropes courses, a canopy tour, mountain biking and 30-plus miles of trails.





## **Y.** YEAR-ROUND BLISS

Bask in Charlotte's oh-so-sunny weather. With about 218 sunny days a year (205 is the national average), only two inches of snow every year and average temperatures in the 60s, the Queen City enjoys year-round comfort. And with almost 50% of the city covered in a gorgeous tree canopy, walking around Uptown and its surrounding neighborhoods is simply serene.

## **Z.** ZOOS

Find exotic animals at Tiger World in Rockwell, Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville or Carolina Raptor Center in Huntersville. You'll also find more than 5,000 sea creatures at SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Aquarium in Concord. Take a worthwhile 90-minute drive from Charlotte to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro and the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, South Carolina, 90 minutes to the south.

There aren't enough letters in the alphabet to cover all of the Queen City! To learn more, check out "101 Things to Do in Charlotte" on [CHARLOTTESGOTALOT.COM](http://CHARLOTTESGOTALOT.COM).

