



**GP Charlotte
2016 Travel Guide
by Lyle Dixon**

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Welcome!



Welcome to Charlotte! The largest city in North Carolina, and the center of America's financial industry, Charlotte is the 16th largest city in the United States and one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Nicknamed the Queen City, after the former Queen of England, Charlotte offers a mix of upscale city life with traditional Southern charm and hospitality.

Important Things to Know

Average Temperature 86 F / 30 C

****High Summer Humidity****

EST/EDT (UTC -4 in summer)

Emergency Number: 911

Smoking inside is illegal

Charlotteans refer to the downtown area as "Uptown" or "Center City"

Local Judge Contacts

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Places to Stay Near the Convention Center

Room prices based on space for 4 people



Courtyard by Marriott

237 South Tryon Street

(Phone) 1-704-926-5800

2 min drive/ 5 min walk

Prices from \$143+

<http://www.marriott.com/cltup>

Marriott City Center

100 West Trade Street

(Phone) 1-704-333-9000

3 min drive/ 9 min walk

Prices from \$143+

<http://www.charlottemarriottcitycenter.com/>



Fairfield Inn and Suites

201 South McDowell Street

(Phone) 1-704-372-7550

3 min drive/ 13 min walk

Prices from \$139+

<http://www.fairfieldinncharlotteuptown.com/>

Hilton Garden Inn

508 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

(Phone) 1-704-347-5972

1 min drive/ 4 min walk

Prices from \$175+

<http://www.charlotteuptown.gardeninn.com/>





Hampton Inn

530 East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

(Phone) 1-704-373-0917

1 min drive/ 5 min walk

Prices from \$152+

[Hampton Inn Uptown](#)

Hilton Center City

222 East 3rd Street

(Phone) 1-704-377-1500

1 min drive/ 4 min walk

Prices from \$220+

<http://charlottecentercity.hilton.com/>



Holiday Inn Center City

230 North College Street

(Phone) 1-704-335-5400

5 min drive/9 min walk

Prices from \$169+

<http://www.hicharlotte.com/>

Hyatt House

435 East Trade Street

(Phone) 1-704-373-9700

2 min drive/ 8 min walk

Prices from \$189+

<http://charlottecentercity.house.hyatt.com/>



Residence Inn

404 South Mint Street

(Phone) 1-704-340-4000

3 min drive/ 8 min walk

Prices from \$189+

[Residence Inn Uptown Charlotte](#)

Budget Places to Stay

Hotels all rated at least 2.5/5 on Hotels.com

Prices based on rooms for 4 people



Super 8 Charlotte/Northlake

4930 Sunset Rd

(Phone) 1-704-598-7710

14 min drive

Prices from \$64+

[Super 8 Charlotte/Northlake](#)

Super 8 Charlotte/Amusement Park

(Minutes from Carowinds)

11300 Texland Blvd

(Phone) 1-704-588-8488

14 min drive

Prices from \$61+

[Super 8 Charlotte/Amusement Park](#)



Red Roof Inn (UNCC)

5111 Equipment Drive

(Phone) 1-704-598-0007

14 min drive

Prices from \$99+

[Red Roof Inn \(UNCC\)](#)

(A few) Places to Eat in Uptown Charlotte

Aria Tuscan Grill

100 N. Tryon St

Italian Food

30\$ and under

<http://ariacharlotte.com/index.html>



Basil Thai Cuisine

210 North Church Street

Thai Food

30\$ and under

<http://www.eatatbasil.com/charlotte/>

The King's Kitchen

129 W Trade St

American Food

22\$ and under

<http://kingskitchen.org/>



Mert's Heart and Soul

214 North College Street

Southern American Food

18\$ and under

<http://mertscharlotte.com/>

The Epicenter

210 E Trade St

Variety of foods

Variety of prices



Places to Eat Around the Convention Center

Fuel

500 S College St

(Across the street from front entrance)

Pizza

22\$ and under

<http://www.fuelpizza.com/>



Buffalo Wild Wings

400 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

(Across the street behind building)

Pub Food

14\$ and under

[Buffalo Wild Wings](http://www.buffalowildwings.com/)

Matt's Chicago Dog

435 S Tryon St #140

(Across the street from front entrance)

Lunch only

Hot Dogs/Bratwursts

10\$ and under

<http://www.mattschicagodog.com/home.html>



Charlotte Convention Center

Inside the building:

Bojangles Fried Chicken

Buon Cibo (Italian)

Einstein Bros Bagels

Starbucks

[Convention Center Menu](#)

Salsarita's

101 S Tryon St #5

(3 blocks from Convention Center)

Mexican food

8\$ and under

[Salsarita's Uptown](#)

**EMZY**

550 S. Tryon St, Suite 160

(2 blocks from Convention Center)

Sushi

16\$ and under

<http://www.emzyuptown.com/>

American Roadside Burgers

440 S Church St

(3 blocks from Convention Center)

American food

16\$ and under

<http://www.americanburgerco.com/home/>

**Lola's**

300 S. Brevard St.

(Across the street from side exit)

American Southern Food

Breakfast and Lunch Only

9\$ and under

[Lola's Uptown Charlotte](#)

Venue Parking

Parking is available at various rates in parking lots and towers surrounding the Charlotte Convention Center. The [NASCAR Hall of Fame parking deck](#) is open and conveniently located at 500 Brevard Street, adjacent to the Charlotte Convention Center. The NASCAR Hall of Fame parking deck is also connected to the Charlotte Convention Center via a convenient over-street walkway. The [Westin Charlotte](#) hotel also offers more than 1,600 spaces, conveniently located on the corner of Stonewall and College Streets, adjacent to the Charlotte Convention Center. If you are coming early in the morning, there is a small lot across the street from the Convention Center next to the [Gantt Center](#), but these spots fill up quickly in the morning. All of the [Wells Fargo buildings](#) (One, Two, and Three) at the intersection of College Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard have parking as well. Additionally, [metered parking](#) is available along many of the main streets in Center City. Some parking garages offer parking after 5:00 pm at reduced rates.



Driving Direction to the Convention Center

(These directions stop at the Parking Deck at the NASCAR Hall of Fame)

From I-77 South (Cornelius/Statesville)

Take exit 9B onto John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and follow to South Blvd/Caldwell Street Ramp. Turn right onto South Blvd. At the second light, turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From I-77 North (South Carolina/Rock Hill)

Take exit 9 onto John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and follow to South Blvd/Caldwell Street Ramp. Turn right onto South Blvd. At the second light, turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From I-85 South (Greensboro)

Take Exit 38 onto I-77 South. Take exit 9B onto John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and follow to South Blvd/Caldwell Street Ramp. Turn right onto South Blvd. At the second light, turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From I-85 North (Atlanta)

Take Exit 36, turning right onto West Brookshire Freeway. Take Exit 5B onto I-77 South. Take exit 9B onto John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and follow to South Blvd/Caldwell Street Ramp. Turn right onto South Blvd. At the next light, turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From US-74 East (Belmont/Gastonia)

Follow US-74 as it becomes the 277 Loop/John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From US-74 West (Monroe/Indian Trail/Matthews)

Follow US-74 as it becomes the 277 Loop South. Take Exit 1E South Boulevard, and turn left. At the second light turn left onto Stonewall Street. Second light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

From the Airport

Follow the airport exit signs for I-77 North. Take I-77 North to exit 9 onto John Belk Freeway. Take Exit 1E and follow to South Blvd/Caldwell Street Ramp. Turn right onto South Blvd. At the second light, turn left onto Stonewall Street. Next light, turn right onto Brevard Street. Entrance to Garage is on the right, just past the overstreet crosswalk.

Public Transportation

CATS Airport Connector

<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cats/Bus/Pages/airport-connector.aspx>

The Charlotte Area Transit System offers a shuttle from the airport to the Center City area that runs every 20 - 30 minutes all day long for 3\$ or less a ride. Services start at 5:05 in Uptown, and run every 20 minutes Monday - Friday, and every 30 minutes on Saturdays and Sundays. The last shuttle leaves the airport at 11:54 pm Monday - Friday, and at 12:55 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Lynx

<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cats/lynx/Pages/default.aspx>

The LYNX Blue Line is the Charlotte region's first light rail service. It is 9.6 miles long and operates from I-485 at South Boulevard to Uptown Charlotte. With 15 stations including seven park and ride locations, the LYNX Blue Line provides a congestion free commute with a consistent travel time. LYNX operates seven days a week. Weekday service operates from 5:26 a.m. to 1:26 a.m. and service is available every 10 minutes during weekday rush hour and every 15 minutes during non-peak hours. Weekend service operates every 20 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes during late night hours.

Speedy Cab

<http://charlottespeedycab.com/>

While Charlotte doesn't have the fleet of Taxi's that some other large cities have, there are still several Taxi companies that you can take advantage of while in town. If you need to schedule a trip, Speedy Cab is based in Uptown, and can provide travel locally or back and forth from the airport.

Places to Visit in Charlotte

Carowinds

<https://www.carowinds.com/>



Carowinds is a 398 acre amusement park located on the border of North and South Carolina. Within the park are several roller coasters and other rides, including the brand new Fury 325. At 325 feet tall and reaching speeds of 95 miles per hour, the Fury 325 is definitely an experience for all roller coaster enthusiasts. Also within Carowinds is the 20 acre water park, Boomerang Bay. After a long day of rollercoasters and rides, Boomerang Bay provides a great way to cool off from the North Carolina summer.

The Epicenter

<http://epicentrenc.com/>



The Epicenter is culmination of Uptown Charlotte's variety. Centrally located in the hub of The Queen City, the Epicenter offers a unique combination of cafés, restaurants, late night spots and retail. With nearly 40 venues including nightlife spots, restaurants, shopping and a captivating rooftop terrace, Epicenter is the perfect spot to journey through day or night. As you visit, you'll find over 10 outdoor patios, nearly 200 TV screens, a five-screen state of the art cinema, and an amazing bowling alley. There is a mix of cafés, restaurants, bars and fine dining that can easily take you from breakfast to late night dining.

The Charlotte Comedy Zone

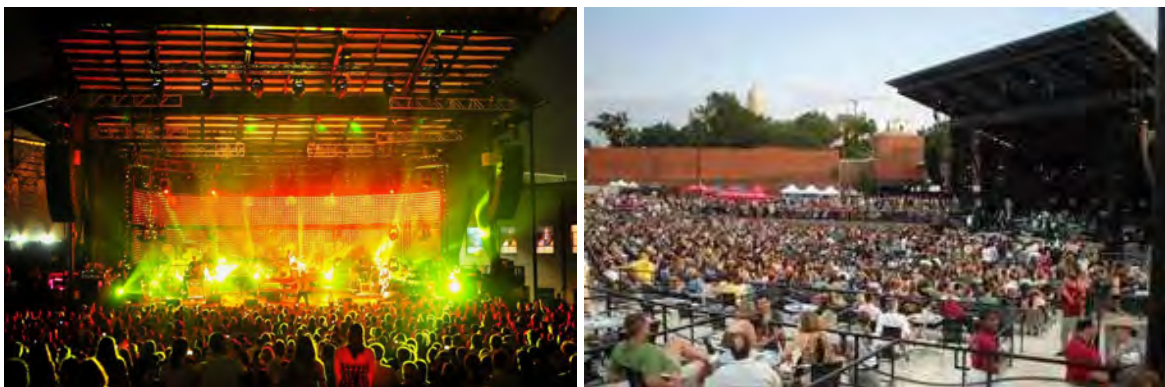
<http://www.cltcomedyzone.com/>



The Charlotte Comedy Zone is a full service comedy club located just outside of Uptown Charlotte. The Comedy Zone can seat up to 400 people, and serves a wide array of food and beverages, to make for a fun and memorable evening. Events and acts are scheduled for every day, so it is definitely worth your while to check out.

The NC Music Factory/Uptown Amphitheatre

<http://ncmusicfactory.com/>



Located right outside of Uptown Charlotte, the Music Factory provides a unique venue to experience both established and up and coming musical performances. The Uptown Amphitheatre is a great way to enjoy music in the NC summers, allowing you to lounge out in the evening air and enjoy the great weather. With shows most every weekend, this is a great place to check out if you are a music lover.

Concord Mills

<http://www.simon.com/mall/concord-mills>



Just a short drive from Charlotte, Concord Mills is North Carolina's largest mall, offering more than 190 different stores to choose from. Concord Mills also offers a wide variety of dining options, both around the area as well as inside, both for casual and more formal dining. For those looking for some fun with friends, Concord Mills houses a bowling alley, a movie theater with an IMAX and 24 other theaters, a Dave and Busters, and The Speedpark, which offers go karting, putt putt, bumper boats, and arcade games.

The US National Whitewater Center

<http://usnwc.org/>



A non-profit organization situated in Charlotte, the US National Whitewater Center promotes a healthy, active, outdoor lifestyle through the activities it provides on its 700 acre campus on the Catawba River. Guests can enjoy whitewater rafting and kayaking, flatwater kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, rock climbing, zip lines, ropes courses, a canopy tour, and mountain biking on the 25+ mile trail system. For those looking to kick back, live music and outdoor festivals create a unique atmosphere of relaxation and fun. The River Jam concert series takes place every Thursday and Saturday evening throughout the summer months, in addition to 9 unique festivals held throughout the year. The River's Edge Bar & Grill, and the Pump House Biergarten offer relaxing experiences after a long day of outdoor adventure.

Nascar Hall of Fame

<http://www.nascarhall.com/>



Located in Uptown Charlotte, N.C., the 150,000-square-foot NASCAR Hall of Fame is an interactive, entertainment attraction honoring the history and heritage of NASCAR. The high-tech venue, designed to educate and entertain race fans and non-fans alike, opened May 11, 2010 and includes artifacts, interactive exhibits, and a 278-person state-of-the-art theater. Also on the property is Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant and the NASCAR Hall of Fame Gear Shop. The goal of the facility is to honor NASCAR icons and create an enduring tribute to the drivers, crew members, team owners and others that have impacted the sport in the past, present and future.



Nascar All-Star Race

http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets/nascar_sprint_all_star_race/

What else needs to be said!? Come see the best of the best duke it out Saturday night! NASCAR's best drivers, in one of its few night time races. Experience one of the South's favorite traditions with the All-Star Race!

Local Gaming Stores

Get Some Game

1224 Commercial Ave
Charlotte, NC 28205
13 Minutes from Convention Center
<http://www.getsomegame.com/>

Hours

Monday- Thursday 5pm - 11pm
Friday 5pm - 12am
Saturday 3pm - 12am
Sunday 3pm - 10pm



One of the premier shops in Charlotte, Get Some offers a very spacious playing area, and a wide collection of singles. Games and trades can be found on most nights, and Friday nights are packed! Get Some offers a very competitive environment, and is home to some of the best players in the area, so if you are looking for a place to sharpen your skills, this is a great store!

Parker, Banner, Kent, and Wayne

21500 Catawba Ave. Suite A
Cornelius, NC 28031
25 Minutes from Convention Center
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/41761703390>

Hours

Monday - Saturday 10am - 10pm*
Sunday 12pm - 6pm

*Frequently open later

A massive comic book and gaming store situated outside Charlotte in Cornelius, NC, PBKW has something to offer comic book and gaming fans of any persuasion. Offering a massive play space, you can frequently find multiples games of Magic, Warhammer 40k, Pokemon, and any number of other games going on at any given time. Featuring a huge supply of Magic singles, board games, miniatures, comic books, paints, and more, PBKW is one of the most complete gaming experiences you will ever find.



Be There Games

14014 E Independence Blvd
Indian Trail, NC 28079
27 Minutes from Convention Center
<http://www.betheregames.com/>

Hours

Monday - Friday 12pm - 10pm
Saturday - Sunday 11am - 10pm



Be There Games is situated just outside of Charlotte in Indian Trail. It offers a large gaming space with enough room to play Magic as well as many of your favorite board games. Get Some offers a variety of options for Friday nights, providing tournaments that cater to both casual and more competitive Magic players.

The Last Word

230 E W.T. Harris Blvd, # B11
Charlotte, NC 28262
19 Minutes from Convention Center
<http://thelastwordcharlotte.com/>

Hours

Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm
Friday - Saturday 10am - 10pm
Sunday 12pm - 6pm

The Last Word is a unique blend of bookstore, coffee shop, and Magic shop situated in the University Area of Charlotte. The Last Word offers a relaxing environment to play coupled with a vast selection of singles across all formats. If you are looking for somewhere to play that is a little different, this is your place!



<u>Scott's Collectibles</u> 934 Cloverleaf Plaza Kannapolis NC 28083 28 Minutes from Convention Center	<u>Hours</u> Monday - Thursday 11am - 7pm Friday 11am - 9pm Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday 12pm - 5pm
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Scott's Collectibles is a combination gaming, memorabilia, and card shop. Scott's offers most currently popular card and board games, as well as collectibles and sports memorabilia of most local and national American sports teams. If you are looking for a more diverse selection in your gaming store, Scott's is definitely a place to check out!



<u>Spandex City</u> 2914 Mt Holly-Huntersville Rd, Charlotte, NC 28214 19 Minutes from Convention Center	<u>Hours</u> Sunday - Tuesday 1am - 7pm Wednesday - Friday 12pm - 9pm Saturday 11am - 9pm
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Spandex City is an extremely family friendly comic book and gaming store with an ice cream and pinball bar right in the store! With a wide variety of games and comic books, Spandex City offers a very wholesome gaming experience with something for the whole family.