



# Charlottesville, VA



Charlottesville, Virginia, is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The city was named in honor of Princess Charlotte, who became queen of England when she married King George III in 1761. In 1819, Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia a short distance away from the city. However, as businesses stretched towards the "Academical Village," the city center shifted and ultimately became intertwined with the university.

The homes of three presidents are among the many historic attractions in Charlottesville. Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, designed and built Monticello, a 5,000-acre plantation. James Monroe, the fifth president and author of the Monroe Doctrine, lived in the 550-acre Highland estate. Montpelier, the home of the fourth president, James Madison, who drafted and promoted the Bill of Rights, is also located in the area.

Other attractions in the area include the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, which presents exhibits and programs about local history. Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia exhibits art from around the world dating from ancient times to the present day. The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia promotes learning about Aboriginal Australian art and culture. Virginia Discovery Museum focuses on children and their families. The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center displays full-size replicas of boats used in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and hands-on activities related to the local history and national journey of these explorers.

Many historic markers, including the site of the Battle of Trevilians and the birthplaces of Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, and George Rogers Clark, are located throughout the city and commemorate important historic people, places, or events.

Drama, dance, comedy, music, and performance art are widely available in Charlottesville's venues that include The Jefferson Theater, the Charlottesville Pavilion, The Southern Café and Music Hall, Paramount Theater, The Garage, Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center, Municipal Arts Center, and Live Arts. Located on the east end of the historic Downtown Mall, Sprint Pavilion is the city's premier outdoor venue for live performances. Performances by the Charlottesville & University Symphony Orchestra; Municipal Band of Charlottesville, Virginia; Charlottesville Opera; Charlottesville Ballet; Victory Hall Opera; and The Virginia Consort are local favorites. Nationally known performers are also attracted to the Charlottesville region.

Performances by the University of Virginia Department of Drama are held in The Helms Theatre and the larger Culbreth Theatre, which is also home to the university's summer Heritage Theatre Festival. The John Paul Jones Arena hosts UVA basketball teams, concerts, family shows, exhibits, trade shows, and community events. Piedmont Virginia Community College also presents art, dance, music, and theatrical performances in its Dickinson Building.

The region also hosts a variety of large events and festivals, including the Tom Tom Founders Festival, the Monticello Wine Trail Festival, the Heritage Harvest Festival, the Top of the Hops Beer Festival, and the Virginia Film Festival.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

North Downtown offers various housing opportunities, including single-family homes, condominiums, and apartments. Many historic homes have been restored and upper stories of commercial buildings have been renovated into apartments. The neighborhood also includes the Downtown Mall, which is closed to automobile traffic and contains a mix of commercial and residential properties. Historic Court Square in the center of North Downtown is the oldest portion of the city of Charlottesville.

Housing in the Barracks/Rugby neighborhood ranges from large homes on large lots that were constructed primarily in the 1930s, to small bungalows on small lots built after World War II. In addition, the neighborhood includes some newer areas that were built as planned unit developments with a cohesive design.

The Greenbrier neighborhood, originally a suburb, was annexed in the 1960s. This primarily single-family residential neighborhood has many ornate homes on large lots. Johnson Village is suburban in character, primarily consisting of brick, single-family detached housing units built during the 1960s. Two new housing developments border Johnson Village: Village Place, which features craftsman-style homes, and Cherry Hill, which contains a mixture of townhomes and single-family homes.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Charlottesville operates 26 parks and shares operation of 3 other parks with Albemarle County. Park amenities include baseball fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, spray grounds, golf courses, tennis courts, disc golf course, and a skate park. Swimming pools are available at 3 parks and the Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center. Community garden plots are available at Azalea Park and Meadowcreek Gardens. The Rivanna Trail, a system of foot trails in and around the city, starts at Riverview Park and runs through or near many of the parks along the Rivanna River. Dogs are allowed off-leash on designated portions of the Rivanna Trail.

Consisting of 280 acres, Pen Park is the largest park in the city. The park offers views of mountains and open rolling land, and recreational opportunities that include 8 tennis courts, a Little League baseball field with batting cage, volleyball court, a playground with tot area for younger children, the 18-hole Meadowcreek Golf Course, and an outdoor physical fitness course with 10 exercise stations.

McIntire Park hosts the carnival for the Annual Dogwood Festival in April and also offers lighted softball fields, a baseball field, a 9-hole sand green golf course, a playground with tot area for younger children, a wading pool, and nature trails. Washington Park features a lighted outdoor pool with a wading area and bath house, 3 basketball courts, a recreation building with restrooms and a playground area, a softball field, basketball courts, multi-use field, and tot play area. The park also hosts the African-American Cultural Arts Festival every summer.

The Ivy Creek Natural Area is a 215-acre preserve with six miles of walking trails through a mix of pine and hardwood forests, old fields, streams, natural springs, and two miles of shoreline on the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir. It is an official site on the Virginia African American Heritage Trail in recognition of its rich social and agricultural history dating back to 1870 when former slave Hugh Carr purchased the land as a family farm.

Phase 1 of the development of the 17-acre IX Art Park, an interactive community space dedicated to the arts, has been completed.

Charlottesville does not have professional sports teams; however, the University of Virginia has men's and women's sports teams.

## EDUCATION

Charlottesville City Schools serve approximately 4,200 students in 6 elementary schools (grades PreK-4), 1 upper elementary school (grades 5-6), 1 middle school (grades 7-8), and 1 high school (grades 9-12). Charlottesville City Schools offer alternative and nontraditional learning programs such as a virtual high school that augments the traditional high school and programs, for at-risk students. The Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center offers career and technical education for high school students and adults.

Higher education is available at the University of Virginia, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as professional degrees in law, medicine, and nursing. Piedmont Virginia Community College awards associate's degrees in academic studies and certificates in career studies.

## HEALTH CARE

Charlottesville is served by the following health care facilities:  
 Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital: 176 licensed beds.  
 University of Virginia Medical Center: 612 licensed beds.  
 UVA HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital: 50 licensed beds.  
 UVA Transitional Care Hospital: 40 licensed beds.

## CITY STATS

2015

City Population	46,597
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	229,514
Per Capita Personal Income, Charlottesville, VA, MSA	\$52,795