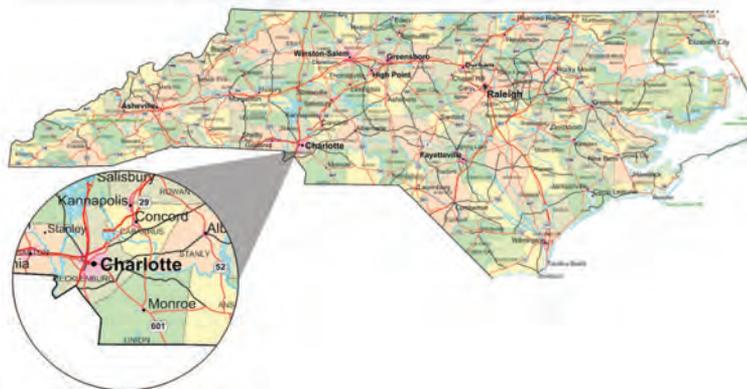




Charlotte, North Carolina



Charlotte, the largest city in North Carolina, was originally named Charlottetowne in honor of the British Queen Charlotte Sophia. The city's county was named Mecklenburg for the region in Germany where she was born.

The Levine Center for the Arts is located in Charlotte and includes the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art; the Mint Museum Uptown, which houses the Mint Museum of Craft + Design and collections of American, contemporary, and European art; and the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture. The Mint Museum Randolph is an art museum located in the original branch of the United States Mint. The Levine Museum of the New South specializes in post-Civil War Southern history, particularly of the Charlotte area. Discovery Place is an interactive science and technology museum with an IMAX Dome Theater. *ImaginOn*: The Joe & Joan Martin Center houses the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, and a children's museum. In addition, there are many other museum options throughout the city, such as the McColl Center for Visual Art, the Charlotte Nature Museum, and the Light Factory Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film.

Charlotte has many performing arts venues including the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Belk Theater, Booth Playhouse, and Stage Door Theater; McGlohon and Duke Energy Theaters at Spirit Square; and the Knight Theater at the Levine Center for the Arts. These theaters are home to the Charlotte Symphony, Community School of the Arts, North Carolina Dance Theatre, NCDT2, On Q Productions, Opera Carolina, and Queen City Theatre Company. In addition, they host touring performers and Broadway shows.

The Time Warner Cable Arena is home to the Charlotte Bobcats and Charlotte Checkers and is a venue for other entertainment

NEIGHBORHOODS

Among the residential districts of Charlotte's Center City, the Fourth Ward contains Victorian homes along with upscale condominiums, lofts, and townhouses and was the city's first major historic preservation effort. Two Center City neighborhoods, the First Ward and Third Ward, primarily feature new high rise construction. Dilworth and Wesley Heights were early suburbs and connected to downtown by Charlotte's streetcar system; most of the homes are Bungalows situated on tree-lined streets. Dilworth is also home to Carolinas Medical Center. Most of the above average sized single-family houses in Myers Park were built in the 1920s. This neighborhood, which is known for its tree-lined avenues, also has condominium and townhouse options. Duke Mansion, the former home of the Duke University founder and currently a bed and breakfast, is located here. Brick ranches and split-level homes dominate Sherwood Forest, which was built in the 1950s. The SouthPark neighborhood is a major business and residential hub that developed around a large shopping mall that opened in 1970. SouthPark has various housing options including condominium towers and single-family houses. Most of SouthPark's subdivisions were built in the 1960s and 1970s and contain many remodeled ranch and split-level style houses on half-acre lots; new construction is also available.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department is responsible for 152 parks and recreation centers within Charlotte. Park amenities vary and include ball courts and fields, playgrounds, trails, lakes, and picnic facilities. In addition, Charlotte has 5 public golf courses, 6 disc golf courses, 5 dog parks, 2 indoor aquatic centers, 2 outdoor pools, and a skate park. Freedom Park has many ball fields and courts, playgrounds, a lake; a pavilion; and an amphitheater. Reedy Creek Park is located adjacent to a nature preserve and has a community garden, a disc golf course, 3 ponds, a fishing pier, a dog park, a playground, ball

courts and fields, and the Reedy Creek Nature Center. Nevin Community Park features lighted softball/baseball and soccer fields; playgrounds, horseshoe pits, bocce ball courts, shuffle board courses, and a sprayground. Hornets Nest Park also has lighted softball fields; lighted tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts; a disc golf course; horseshoe pits; a playground; a lake with a fishing pier; and a BMX bicycle track.

The U.S. National Whitewater Center is home to the world's largest man-made whitewater river and has many water and land activities.

Professional sports teams in Charlotte include the Charlotte Bobcats (basketball) and Carolina Panthers (football). The Charlotte Motor Speedway hosts the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series All-Star Race, Coca-Cola 600, and Bank of America 500. The NASCAR Hall of Fame is also located in Charlotte.

EDUCATION

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District educates more than 110,000 of the city's students in 86 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, and 19 high schools. In addition, the district operates one school for cognitively, disabled students and another for emotionally and behaviorally disabled students. Magnet school programs are available for students at all grade levels and include the arts, STEM, Montessori, language, and technology. The Cato Middle College offers high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credit.

University of North Carolina, Charlotte is an urban research university that has undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs. Queens University of Charlotte is a private, co-ed, Presbyterian university that offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in liberal arts and professional studies. Pfeiffer University, a United Methodist university, provides undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Johnson C. Smith University is a historically black college that offers undergraduate degree programs. Johnson & Wales University is a private, nonprofit institution and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, hospitality, and culinary arts. The Art Institute of Charlotte offers bachelor's and associate's degrees and certificates. Carolinas College of Health Sciences educates nurses and allied health providers. ECPI University provides associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees and diploma programs in select career-focused fields. Belmont Abbey College, Charlotte campus, is a Catholic college that offers degree programs for adults.

Central Piedmont Community College has 4 campuses in Charlotte: Cato, Central, Harper, and Harris. King's College offers a combination of applied associate degrees and diplomas in business, design and technology, and health care.

HEALTH CARE

Charlotte has 2 hospital systems with more than 1,800 licensed acute care beds, including beds in 2 pediatric hospitals. The city also has an orthopedic hospital, a long term acute care facility, and a behavioral health center.

CITY STATS

	2009
City Population	704,422
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,745,524
Per Capita Personal Income, Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC, MSA	\$39,635