Charlotte, NC Travel Itinerary Guide

Perfect for a 3-Day Weekend or Extended Stay

Charlotte offers a blend of Southern history, arts and culture, motorsports, outdoor adventure, and an outstanding food scene. This guide organizes attractions by type and then provides a detailed day-by-day itinerary.

Quick Reference: Top Attractions by Category

🏛️ Museums & Cultural Attractions

Must-Visit

1. NASCAR Hall of Fame – Interactive exhibits, racing simulators, and NASCAR history.
2. Mint Museum Uptown – Charlotte's premier art museum featuring American, contemporary, and decorative arts.
3. Discovery Place Science – Hands-on science exhibits and immersive experiences.
4. Levine Museum of the New South – Southern history and cultural exhibits. Bechtler Museum of Modern Art – Modern European and American art collections.
5. Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture – Celebrates African-American contributions through art and history.
6. Bechtler Museum of Modern Art – Known for its impressive collection of modern European art and the iconic Firebird sculpture outside. [nctripping.com]
7. Charlotte Museum of History – Features local history exhibits and the historic Hezekiah Alexander House. [nctripping.com]

🌳 Outdoor Attractions

Best Places to Explore

- Freedom Park
- U.S. National Whitewater Center
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
- Latta Nature Preserve
- CLT Airport Overlook
- 7th Street Public Market

🎢 Family Attractions

- Carowinds Amusement Park
- Discovery Place Science
- NASCAR Hall of Fame

- Freedom Park

🚶 Guided Tours

Recommended Experiences

- Charlotte City Sightseeing Tour
- Taste Carolina Food Tour
- Segway Tour of Uptown
- Queen City Ghost Tour
- Craft Brewery Tour

Best Charlotte Neighborhoods

Uptown Charlotte

Best for: Museums, skyline views, sports, and dining

Highlights:

- NASCAR Hall of Fame
- Mint Museum Uptown
- Discovery Place Science
- Levine Center for the Arts

South End

Best for: Breweries, shopping, nightlife

Highlights:

- Rail Trail
- Local breweries
- Public art
- Trendy restaurants

NoDa (North Davidson Arts District)

Best for: Arts, music, murals, local culture

Highlights:

- Street art
- Live music venues
- Craft breweries
- Independent restaurants

Plaza Midwood

Best for: Local charm and unique eateries

Highlights:

- Vintage shops
- Coffee houses
- Boutique stores
- Local restaurants

Charlotte Food Guide

Southern Favorites

Mert's Heart & Soul

- Shrimp and grits
- Fried chicken
- Southern vegetables

Haberdish

- Southern comfort food
- House-made biscuits
- Fried chicken

Barbecue

Midwood Smokehouse

Known for:

- Pulled pork
- Brisket
- Burnt ends

Upscale Dining

The Fig Tree Restaurant

Perfect for:

- Romantic dinners
- Wine lovers
- Fine dining experiences

Beef 'N Bottle

A Charlotte institution famous for steaks.

The Capital Grille

Excellent steaks and seafood in Uptown.

300 East

Popular neighborhood restaurant serving American cuisine.

The Cowfish Sushi Burger Bar

Unique menu combining burgers and sushi.

Brunch & Breakfast

Famous Toastery

Local favorite with creative breakfast dishes.

Ruby Sunshine

Southern-inspired brunch options.

Snooze, an A.M. Eatery

Known for pancakes and brunch cocktails.