



Raleigh

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# Raleigh, North Carolina

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## Introduction

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Raleigh, North Carolina, is a thriving city—just what you'd expect from a state capital and an internationally ranked research center in an area defined by three major universities. Visitors to Raleigh usually fall for the same seductions that prompt people to live there permanently. The climate is mild. People are friendly. There's a mix of cultures.

Downtown Raleigh, which offers a mix of business and government buildings surrounded by charming older neighborhoods, parks and greenways, includes the 500,000-sq-ft/46,452-sq-m Raleigh Convention Center, which capped off an effort in recent decades to bring to downtown more residential condos and hotels, public art, a redesigned Fayetteville Street, and a large selection of restaurants and shops. Downtown is the place to be during the day and at night.

Research Triangle Park, located between Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is among the largest research parks in the U.S. Some 300 companies and organizations call the Research Triangle Park home. With that in mind, the area often boasts that it has the largest concentration of Ph.D.s of any place in the world.

Education is in the forefront in the Triangle, with three major universities: North Carolina State University in Raleigh, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University in Durham. The draw of possible jobs, education and an affordable lifestyle has attracted thousands of international visitors, many of whom are charmed enough to stay.

But its popularity has brought Raleigh growing pains, too. To keep up with the influx of new residents and visitors, road construction is widespread and constant. Traffic tie-ups are common, especially along Interstate 40, Highway 70 and Highway 54, the three main corridors through Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and on the I-440 beltline around the city.

New road construction is alleviating some of the congestion, and the I-540 and Highway 264 bypasses are helping with backups north and east of the city, but in the meantime, construction projects, from new roads to high-rise buildings continue, which means that patience is an asset when navigating the area.

## Highlights

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**Sights**—The North Carolina State Capitol building; the Executive Mansion; the Joel Lane House; Oakwood Cemetery.

**Museums**—The North Carolina Museum of Art; the North Carolina Museum of History; the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; the City of Raleigh Museum; the Contemporary Art Museum of Raleigh (CAM).

**Memorable Meals**—Choose from a wide array in the capital city's two food halls; an authentic barbecue sandwich and hush puppies at Clyde Cooper's BBQ; basic, bargain meals at the N.C. Seafood Restaurant at the State Farmers Market; succulent steaks and great atmosphere at the Angus Barn; good down-home cookin' and a plethora of who's who in North Carolina politics at Big Ed's City Market Restaurant; seafood at 42nd Street Oyster Bar.

**Late Night**—Drag shows at Legends; Goodnight's Comedy Club; dance to music from the 1980s and '90s at Coglein's Raleigh.

**Walks**—Stroll the streets of Historic Oakwood; joining one of the Historic Tours of Raleigh; explore the numerous parks, lakes and greenway trails; experience the beauty of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Gardens and the J.C. Raulston Arboretum; go bird-watching at the Historic Yates Mill County Park.

**Especially for Kids**—The colorful Dentzel carousel, miniature train and *Andy and Opie TV Land* statue at Pullen Park; interactive exhibits at the Marbles Kids Museum; the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, featuring "The Terror of the South," the only *Acrocanthosaurus* skeleton displayed anywhere in the world.

## Geography

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Raleigh is located on the eastern edge of the Piedmont, or central section, of North Carolina, which falls between the Atlantic Coast and the

Blue Ridge Mountains. It's traversed by Interstate 40 and sits west of I-95, the primary north-south corridor of the eastern U.S. The city center is circled by I-440, called the beltline.

In downtown Raleigh you'll find most of the city's museums, historic sights, state government buildings and several colleges. Many of the best Raleigh attractions are located inside the I-440 beltline. Near the center of the city are some notable entertainment and historical districts, including Historic Oakwood, Mordecai, the Warehouse District, Glenwood South and Hillsborough Street—the main artery between downtown and North Carolina State University, offering a wide variety of college-type and upscale bars, restaurants and coffee shops.

To the north, halfway between downtown and the beltline, is Cameron Village, a popular shopping area with boutiques and restaurants. North Hills is a rapidly developing area with condos, retail and office space that attract the Triangle's burgeoning workforce. Raleigh has also spread to encompass neighboring towns, such as Cary and Apex.

## History

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In 1788, North Carolina became the 12th state of the Union. But it was without a permanent capital, so legislators selected a site in townless Wake County, in the middle of the state. They bought 1,000 acres/405 hectares of uninhabited woods and fields from Joel Lane and began building the city—naming it after Sir Walter Raleigh, the 16th-century English statesman who sent the first English colonists to Roanoke Island.

The Statehouse was built on Union Square, and Fayetteville Street was developed as the primary business area, with wooden stores at street level and residences above. Elected state officials built elegant homes. But in the 1830s, several fires destroyed many of the wooden buildings in Raleigh, including the Statehouse. The rebuilding that followed brought an influx of jobs and residents.

Also around this time came the railroad, opening markets to the north and eventually the east and southeast. The Civil War years (1861-65) were hard on the city. For two weeks in 1865, more than 100,000 Union troops occupied Raleigh and Wake County. But after the war, Raleigh grew and prospered.

From the city's earliest days, farming (especially tobacco) has been a big industry in the countryside surrounding the capital. Raleigh also has been a cultural and educational center. In 1959, leaders from business, government and academia created Research Triangle Park to attract companies doing world-class research and development in medicine, science and technology.

The 21st century has ushered in rapid development and an influx of people. Gone are the days when state workers streamed out of high-rise office buildings making downtown mostly a ghost town after 5 pm. The capital city is bustling with commerce, restaurants, condos and nightlife.

## Potpourri

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North Carolina was called "The Rip Van Winkle State" in the early 1800s because it seemed slow to wake up and develop in comparison to its neighbors.

David Sedaris, author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and *Calypso*, was raised in Raleigh.

The "City of Oaks" drops a giant copper acorn on New Year's Eve. During the year, the 1,250-pound sculpture by David Benson is displayed in Moore Square Park in downtown Raleigh.

The historic carousel in Raleigh's Pullen Park dates from about 1900, making it one of the foremost surviving works of the Pennsylvania Carousel Company, founded by Gustav A. Dentzel. Its paramount feature is a menagerie of 52 hand-carved wooden animals. In addition to 30 horses, it includes ostriches, cats, rabbits, pigs, a lion, a tiger and a goat.

Actress and singer Evan Rachel Wood is a native of Raleigh, and her well-known father, Ira David Wood III, is founder and executive director of Raleigh's Theatre in the Park. He is locally renowned as the star of an offbeat version of *A Christmas Carol*, which has been performed annually since 1974 and has been seen by more than a million people.

Clay Aiken, one of the most successful American Idol runners-up, hails from Raleigh.

"Tar Heel" is a nickname applied to North Carolinians, as well as to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's athletic teams. Although most experts believe its origin comes from the fact that tar, pitch and turpentine—created from the state's vast pine forests—were once among North Carolina's most important exports, locals more often attribute it to a quotation from Gen. Robert E. Lee who, at a battle outside Petersburg, Virginia, is said to have remarked of the stalwart North Carolina soldiers, "There they stood, as if they had tar on their

heels."

The pedestrian bridge that links greenways between the North Carolina Museum of Art Park and Meredith College was inspired by the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia.

## Hotel Overview

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Raleigh's accommodations choices include hotels, motels, furnished apartments, bed-and-breakfasts and home rentals, though the city has some strict rules on the latter—whole house rentals, for instance, are excluded, and homeowners renting rooms must be living on site.

You'll find options in every part of town, but the areas best suited to leisure travelers are downtown, near Crabtree Valley Mall and on the northern end of town.

Business travelers and tourists planning to divide their time among Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill might prefer staying in or near the Research Triangle Park.

For stays during spring or fall, you should try to book at least two to three weeks in advance. With many colleges and high schools in Raleigh and the vicinity, rooms can be scarce during May and June graduations: Make reservations at least six months ahead if that's when your trip is scheduled.

## Sightseeing

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Raleigh is the state capital, and many attractions are tied to government institutions. The Legislative Building, an imposing structure of white marble that covers an entire city block, was the first state building in the nation constructed exclusively for the legislative branch of government. The 40-room, Queen Anne-style Executive Mansion, also called the Governor's Mansion, was completed in 1891 and is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the U.S.

The original state Capitol building is located in the heart of downtown. It's been restored to its 1840 appearance and is one of the best-preserved examples of a major civic building in the Greek Revival style.

The North Carolina Museum of History, which sits just a block from the state Capitol, encompasses a range of North Carolina's history from its prevalent agriculture, industry, textiles, folk life, decorative arts and military heritage. It is also home to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Check out one of Richard Petty's race cars and Meadow Lark Lemon's Harlem Globetrotters basketball uniform, plus 200 other unique items.

The acclaimed North Carolina Museum of Art is the first such facility funded with public money. It has an impressive collection of ancient artifacts and artwork from old masters to contemporary U.S. artists. It also has a terrific array of temporary exhibits that changes every few months. An outdoor amphitheater and large movie screen provide evening entertainment with live music and film. The outdoors Art Walk is the largest museum art park in North America.

Another fresh air activity is exploring the Historic Oakwood and Mordecai neighborhoods, the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, the city's rose garden or Pullen Park. The area's extensive network of greenways, lakes and parks provides ample opportunity for enjoying the outdoors.

The nearby cities of Chapel Hill and Durham also have lots to offer and are prime destinations for day trips.

## Recreation

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Raleigh and the surrounding area offer plenty of recreational opportunities for travelers. You'll find lakes for fishing and boating, a number of golf courses, lots of public tennis courts and nearly 50 mi/80 km of trails for walking, jogging and hiking that connect many of the city's parks.

### Golf

Golf is a favorite pastime in North Carolina. Several PGA events are held regionally, and with more than 20 courses located in and around Raleigh, there are plenty of choices for your next round.

About an hour away, Pinehurst Resort and the Sandhills area boast more than 40 world-class golf courses within a 15-mi/24-km radius.

## Swimming

Seasonal outdoor pools operated by the city are open early June-Labor Day. Locations and information on all pools can be found at <https://raleighnc.gov/aquatics>.

## Tennis & Racquet Sports

Tennis is popular in Raleigh, and the city's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department provides 24 locations around the city that can be used at no charge for walk-on play. Because of demand, drop-in play, league matches and lessons can be reserved for an hourly rate of US\$5.

You can make advanced reservations or look up locations at <https://raleighnc.gov/parks/content/prec recreation/articles/tenniscourts.html>.

## Nightlife

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Raleigh's lively nightlife scene is primarily concentrated downtown in the Warehouse District and along the Glenwood South corridor. Most bars close around 2 am, but some of the more upscale spots close earlier, especially those that are restaurants, too.

One area phenomenon is the long-popular beach music and its companion dance, the shag, a bop-style dance that originated in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in the 1950s. The shag is nearly second nature to locals who grew up in the 1960s and '70s. Beach-music festivals are popular.

Because of North Carolina liquor laws, many nightspots are considered private clubs, charging an instant membership fee of US\$1-\$10 and may only be open for those age 21 and older. Some venues allow membership sign-ups in advance online.

## Performing Arts

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Raleigh is a city rich in music, dance and theater companies. Many performances are held at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

Most of the Triangle's colleges and universities also have active arts programs.

## Spectator Sports

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Although Raleigh is home to pro NHL hockey team the Carolina Hurricanes, the big draw is college sports, especially men's basketball.

Strong rivalries in both the men's and women's programs exists among the area's three major universities: Duke University in Durham, North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC).

### Baseball

Though not in Raleigh, the Durham Bulls Athletic Park (a 25-mi/40-km drive via I-40 W and NC-147 N) is well worth the trip for any true baseball fans. The Bulls are the AAA affiliate of the MLB Tampa Bay Rays and widely known for the 1988 movie *Bull Durham* starring Susan Sarandon, Kevin Costner and Tim Robbins.

### Basketball

The area's three major universities, Duke University in Durham, North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), compete in the NCAA Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Both men's and women's team often appear in the NCAA Tournament (March Madness).

Check for tickets at Duke University (<http://goduke.com>); NCSU (<http://gopack.com>); and UNC (<http://goheels.com>).

### Football

Football tickets are difficult to find for a single game at three major universities, but you might snare a couple from fans at Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium, North Carolina State University's 50,000-seat Carter-Finley Stadium or the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill on game day.

Check for tickets at Duke University (<http://goduke.com>); NCSU (<http://gopack.com>); and UNC (<http://goheels.com>).

## Shopping

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Malls, boutiques, art galleries, craft shops and gourmet food stores abound in Raleigh. Cameron Village, a four-block cluster of specialty shops featuring clothing, antiques, jewelry and art, is a favorite haunt for shoppers.

In the old City Market area, where farmers once gathered to sell produce and livestock, you can now browse in stores and grab a bite at bars and restaurants clustered along the cobblestoned streets. It's at Blount and Market streets in downtown Raleigh.

And for local flavor, don't overlook the State Farmers Market or the flea market at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

**Shopping Hours:** Area malls are generally open Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 or 9:30 pm, Sunday noon-6 pm. Boutiques and smaller stores are usually open Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 or 6 pm.

## Day Trips

To **Chapel Hill**. Home to the University of North Carolina, the oldest state-supported institution in the country, Chapel Hill is well worth a side trip from Raleigh. Take time to tour the campus and be sure to visit the North Carolina Botanical Garden. It has an example of almost every plant that grows in the state. Another must-see is the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, where more than 100 U.S. astronauts have trained.

Also stroll along Franklin Street, browse through a few shops and get a bite to eat; it's a surefire way to understand why Chapel Hill is always ranked as one of the most idyllic college towns in the U.S. To get to Chapel Hill, take Interstate 40 west out of Raleigh to Route 54. Follow Route 54 west into Chapel Hill (the street name eventually becomes Raleigh Road). It's about a 40-minute drive.

To **Durham**. Visitors are welcome inside Duke University's soaring Gothic Duke Chapel (with its amazing 1932 Aeolian pipe organ) either on their own or via docent-led tours. Afterward stroll the grounds passing by Cameron Indoor Stadium, home to the Duke Blue Devils basketball team.

Durham is also known as the City of Medicine with Duke Hospital and others prominent there. Catch a Broadway show or concert at the Durham Performing Arts Center, the largest in the Carolinas. And in season, catch a Durham Bulls baseball game in the attractive ballpark downtown. Durham also holds title as one of the state's best cities for foodies.

As you stroll downtown, you'll pass sculptures and public art including murals. One crawls with bees outside the American Tobacco Campus home to the Burt's Bees headquarters. The 300-sq-ft cabin of company founder Burt Shavitz has been relocated from Maine. The area with its Lucky Strike tall tower and red brick former tobacco warehouses is the city's entertainment district.

Reach Durham by taking Interstate 40 west and then NC 147 north, about a 30-minute drive.

To **Seagrove**. Ever since the 18th century, potters have been drawn to Seagrove, which is known for its special clay. Today, many renowned potters have their homes and studios in the area, called "Jug Town" by North Carolinians. The North Carolina Pottery Center showcases the history of this and artistry of this famous craft. The potters often open their studios to the public, and many have shops.

Seagrove is about 80 mi/130 km southwest of Raleigh. Take Highway 64 west to Asheboro, and then go south on Highway 220 to Exit 45. The town is about 1 mi/2 km east of the exit. Stop at any of the 60 pottery studios or shops for a free map of the area.

To the **North Carolina Zoo**. Located in Asheboro, the 550-acre/223-hectare park is the country's largest walk-through natural habitat with more than 1,800 animals. Key areas are North America, with its fabulous polar-bear habitat, and Africa, with its plains exhibit, where herds of zebra and giraffe roam freely.

To **High Point**. Known as the Home Furnishings Capital of the World, High Point has hosted the International Home Furnishings Market since the early 1920s. Held each spring and fall, the market, which is now known simply as the High Point Market, is attended by furniture dealers from around the world.

Savvy shoppers know that North Carolina is also one of the best places in the country to shop for retail home furnishings. The selection is unsurpassed. Among the largest of the local furniture dealers is Furnitureland South in nearby Jamestown. You can also visit the High Point Museum and Historical Park, which exhibits furniture and home fashions from the past.

High Point is about 90 mi/145 km west of Raleigh. Take I-40 West to U.S. Highway 70 West toward High Point/Charlotte.

To **Wilmington**. Residents and vacationers flock to Wilmington for year-round fun, shopping, restaurants and beach access to North

Carolina's Cape Fear Coast. This historic port city offers many attractions, including a picturesque riverfront full of restaurants, quaint shops, and Victorian and antebellum-style homes.

Be sure to visit the USS **North Carolina** Battleship Memorial, a destroyer that served in the Pacific during World War II. Keep your eyes peeled for famous actors in town for a local film shoot; North Carolina has a history of film production, much of it thanks to Wilmington's EUE/Screen Gems Studios. Stroll through Airlie Gardens or explore the shops at The Cotton Exchange.

Wilmington is about 130 mi/209 km southeast of Raleigh. Take I-40 east to Highway 210/Highway 117.

To **New Bern**. Located on the shore of the Neuse River, New Bern is one of the most picturesque towns in North Carolina. It was the first capital of the colony of North Carolina, and you can visit the Royal Governor's former home built in the late 1760s. Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens offers guided tours of the palace, the gardens and historic homes on its grounds.

Once you've finished your tour, peruse the shops of the historic downtown with its beautiful waterfront views. Don't miss the birthplace of Pepsi-Cola, where pharmacist Caleb Bradham invented the famous soft drink.

New Bern is about 112 mi/180 km east of Raleigh. Take I-40 east to U.S. Highway 70 East.

## Dining Overview

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Raleigh's culinary style encompasses the best of traditional southern food, from barbecue, Brunswick stew and banana pudding to fried green tomatoes, updated with the stylish "nouvelle southern" staples such as shrimp and grits and pecan-crusted chicken in Jack Daniels sauce.

Research and technology jobs in the Research Triangle Park have attracted legions of northerners, and with them Chicago-style pizza and bistro dining, and a growing international community has added spicy variety to the dining scene.

Clusters of restaurants can be found downtown, on the Glenwood South corridor (running seven blocks from Peace Street to Hillsborough) and in northern Raleigh's North Hills area called Midtown.

Visitors would be remiss if they overlooked North Carolina barbecue while in Raleigh. Barbecue is serious business in the state. There are two kinds: Eastern style, which is whole hog, seasoned with a mild to fiery vinegar-based sauce, and Piedmont style (also known as Lexington style), which is pork shoulders only, served with a sweeter, milder sauce. Notice that both kinds are pork, not beef. And both styles of barbecue are usually served chopped—Eastern is finely chopped, Piedmont is chunkier (sometimes sliced). In both cases, the sauce is thinner than you might find in other southern states. Almost every barbecue place east of and throughout Raleigh serves Eastern-style barbecue.

On the days (or meals) when you don't eat barbecue, opt for seafood. It's one of the state's biggest industries. Shrimp, clams, mussels, oysters and crabs are particularly plentiful and often served fried, Calabash-style. Fresh seafood arrives in the Triangle daily, so almost any seafood restaurant will be good.

Expect to have hush puppies—deep-fried cornmeal balls flavored with onions—served with either seafood or barbecue.

In general, dining times are 7-9 am for breakfast, 11:30 am-2 pm for lunch and 5-9 pm for dinner. Note that some southerners refer to the noon meal as "dinner." For those folks, the evening meal is called "supper."

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$16; \$\$\$ = US\$17-\$25; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$25.

## Personal Safety

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Raleigh is considered a relatively safe city. Its crime rate is comparable to other cities the same size. As with other metropolitan areas, most crimes tend to take place in areas where the most concentrated numbers of people are located and in lower-lit areas.

In Raleigh, the most heavily populated areas are around downtown, North Carolina State University and in the northern part of the city. Most areas downtown are well-lit, which helps keep crime down. Well-lit parking decks are available downtown near the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, and although they are more expensive than parking on the street, the decks are recommended for evening performances.

The Raleigh Downtown Alliance provides an escort service from 6 am to midnight; if you feel uncomfortable, call the Safety Patrol



Supervisor (phone 919-368-7962). They can also help with automobile issues such as a needed jump start.

Use the same commonsense precautions you would in any city: Be aware of your surroundings, don't walk alone at night and never leave valuables unattended in your car.

## Health

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Emergency health care is available 24 hours a day at all the area hospitals, and pharmacies are dotted across the city. There are also a number of urgent-care centers, and some area CVS pharmacies offer "Minute Clinic" services for minor illnesses.

Major Raleigh hospitals include: Duke Raleigh Hospital, 3400 Wake Forest Road (phone 919-954-3000); Rex Hospital, 4420 Lake Boone Trail (phone 919-784-3100); and WakeMed Raleigh Campus, 3000 New Bern Ave. (phone 919-350-8000).

There are also a number of urgent-care centers in the area, including Accent Urgent Care, 2406 Blue Ridge Road (phone 919-789-4322); UNC Rex Urgent Care, 3050 Duraleigh Road, Suite 111 (phone 984-215-6990); and Raleigh Urgent Care, 2600 New Bern Ave. (phone 919-231-3131).

Phone 911 for emergencies.

## Disabled Advisory

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There is disabled access at almost all major facilities and attractions in Raleigh.

Information on airport services and accessibility options for travelers with disabilities is available at <https://www.rdu.com/travel-info/traveling-with-disabilities>.

## Dos & Don'ts

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Do try eastern North Carolina-style barbecue, basted in a vinegar-and-pepper sauce. Love it or hate it, there's nothing quite like it.

Do know a bit about the area's basketball teams, especially the North Carolina State University Wolfpack, University of North Carolina Tar Heels and the Duke Blue Devils. You'll be in the dark all winter long unless you have working knowledge of them.

Do visit the state fair if you're in the area in mid- to late October. It offers a unique view of the culture of the state and is just plain fun.

Do slow down when you're visiting Raleigh. Southerners take their time on the road and when providing service. They are not trying to be disrespectful. It's a cultural thing.

Don't compare anything to "the way you do it up North." Southerners just don't care.

Don't be surprised if waitresses call you "Shug" (short for "Sugar") or "Hon" (as in Honey) at local, home-style restaurants. It's a term of endearment, meant to make you feel at home.

## Geostats

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**Passport/Visa Requirements:** All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

**Population:** 469,298.

**Time Zone:** 5 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-5 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

**Voltage Requirements:** 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 919,, 984 area codes;

## Currency Exchange

Travelers can easily exchange foreign currency in the Business Centers of each terminal at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. You can also use major credit cards or bank cards to withdraw U.S. dollars from ATMs, which are located at most bank branches and in many shopping areas.

## Taxes

Sales tax is 7.25% and includes state and local taxes.

## Tipping

In restaurants, tips range 15%-20% of the bill, depending on quality of service. You should tip taxi rideshare drivers 10%-15% of the fare.

At full-service hotels, tipping the bellhop US\$1-\$2 per bag is appropriate.

## Weather

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Raleigh has a moderate climate during spring, fall and winter, but summers are hot and humid. Winter temperatures range from highs in the low 50s F/10-13 C to lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s F/-2 to 2 C. Spring and fall days are usually in the low to mid-70s F/low 20s C, with nights in the 50s F/10-14 C. Summer days are often in the upper 80s and low 90s F/30-35 C with high humidity.

The rainiest months are July and August. Hurricane season runs June-November, but Raleigh is far enough inland to be fairly protected from hurricane damage.

Snow is infrequent and usually light—if you see any at all it will be December-February. But ice storms are not uncommon and can bring down power lines and snarl traffic.

## What to Wear

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The rule for Raleigh is to dress comfortably. Casual attire is appropriate in all the Triangle cities, with Raleigh being the most conservative of the three. Standard business attire is primarily suits or jackets and ties for men Monday-Thursday (comparable dress for women), but many companies are less formal. Friday is fairly casual.

Tourists should dress according to the weather. Usually that means shorts, lightweight pants or skirts and short-sleeve tops in summer. And in winter, pack slacks, sweaters and a lightweight jacket or raincoat. Layering for warmth is recommended.

If you are visiting Raleigh in the fall or winter, check the weather report before traveling. Raleigh usually has a week or two of unseasonably warm days in the off season each year; a day or two in the mid-70s F/mid-20s C is not uncommon in January or February.

## Telephone

Pay phones are all but extinct in the Raleigh area, but cell phone coverage is good. Dial the 919 or 984 area code first, and then the seven-digit local number.

## Internet Access

FedEx Office centers and other copy shops have computers with internet access. Many coffee shops offer Wi-Fi access, as do a number of hotels.

## Newspapers & Magazines

The daily *News and Observer* can be purchased at newsstands, grocery stores and curbside newspaper boxes. The paper does not have a printed edition on Saturday.

Both *INDY Week* and *Triangle Downtowner Magazine* provide extensive entertainment coverage and are available free at restaurants, nightclubs, grocery stores, bookstores and coffee shops.

The weekly *Triangle Business Journal* provides in-depth business news.

Raleigh has several lifestyle magazines, including *Raleigh Magazine*, *Midtown Magazine*, *Triangle Style Magazine* and *Walter Magazine*. There is also *Cary Magazine*, and *Metro Magazine* covers the eastern half of North Carolina but focuses extensively on Raleigh.

For a broader look at North Carolina, *Our State* magazine offers insight into southern culture and many day-trip ideas.

## Transportation

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The most efficient way to get around Raleigh and its surrounding areas is by car. You can rent a car upon arrival at the airport. The only time you won't need a car is when touring downtown: Sights there, including the museums, theater, Capitol building, Governor's Mansion, Historic Oakwood and other attractions, are walkable.

The Raleigh Trolley operates throughout downtown and in the evenings connects downtown with restaurants and nightclubs on South Glenwood Avenue. The local bus system, GoRaleigh, just isn't time-efficient for tourists.

Horse-drawn carriages with knowledgeable driver-guides add a touch of romance and casual sightseeing in downtown but must be reserved in advance.

### Car

The best way to see Raleigh and the rest of the Triangle is by car. The major roads leading into town are Interstate 40 (from the southeast and west, including from the airport), Highway 70 (from the northwest), Highway 1 (from the northeast and southwest) and Highway 64 (from the east). Each of these feeds into the I-440 beltline that encircles the city.

The rapid and continuing growth of the entire Triangle area has led to crowded roads and highways, especially during rush hours (weekdays 7-9 am and 4-7 pm). Downtown Raleigh is laid out in a grid pattern, but outside of downtown, the pattern falls apart, and finding your way can become confusing, with changing street names and poor signage. Cell phone or vehicle GPS navigation can be helpful.

Using the I-440 Beltline around the city is the key to getting many places. Ongoing construction of the I-540 outer loop now links Highway 55, Research Triangle Park and the airport in northwest Raleigh with Highway 64 and Knightdale in northeastern Wake County. The interstate will eventually encircle the entire metropolitan area.

One state law to be aware of: Your car's headlights must be turned on whenever the windshield wipers are in use.

### Taxi

Taxi fares are regulated throughout town. You cannot hail a cab from the street in Raleigh or the Triangle. If you want a taxi, phone the company directly or have your hotel make arrangements. Most cab companies operate 24 hours and take advance reservations. Some have vans to accommodate larger parties or many pieces of luggage.

### Other

Raleigh has 200 pick-up, drop-off electric pedal-assist bikes as well as 100 regular bicycles for short-term use around town at 20-plus stations—pick up at one spot; leave at another. The system is operated by Citrix Cycles with an online app for quickly locating available ones. The same type system is in place with several locally operating electric scooter companies.

As an alternative, you can take a rickshaw in the downtown area. Rickshaws are an ideal way to get from place to place when it's too far to walk and too close to drive. Rickshaws are more fun than a cab, more environmentally friendly, and all the people on the streets will wave to you.

There is no charge except tips, but tip generously: These bikers work hard! As a general guideline, most riders tip a dollar or two per block.

For more information, visit <http://www.raleighrickshaw.com> or <http://www.crankarmrickshaw.com>.

## Events

Whether you're looking for a step back in time or something as modern as a Comic Con event, Raleigh—where the Old South meets high-tech—offers both. Historic tours and antiques shows take place side-by-side with performing arts and sporting events.

Of special note are the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) World of Bluegrass festival, with attendance topping 200,000 over three days, plus events around the winter holidays. From mid-November through New Year's, the streets glitter with Christmas lights and the calendar fills with time-honored traditional performances, parades and other holiday happenings including the New Year's Eve

First Night Raleigh celebration.

For detailed information about upcoming events in the Raleigh area, contact the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. Phone 919-834-5900. Toll-free 800-849-8499. <https://www.visitraleigh.com>.

There is also a good online events calendar at <https://www.downtownraleigh.org/events/calendar>.

## Calendar

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There is also a good online events calendar at <https://www.downtownraleigh.org/events/calendar>.

# Hilton Raleigh North Hills, Raleigh, North Carolina

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## Hotel Profile

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3415 Wake Forest Rd  
Raleigh, NC

**Phone:** 1 919-872-2323

**Fax:** 1 919-876-0890

**Toll Free:** 800-445-8667

**E-mail:** [shughes@northraleighhilton.com](mailto:shughes@northraleighhilton.com)

**Website:** <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/NC/RDUNHHF/index.html>

**General Manager:** Fred Van Slyke

**Chain:** Hilton Hotels and Resorts

**Chain Web:** <https://www3.hilton.com/en/index.html>

**STAR Rating:**



**Amenity Rating:**



**Price:**



**Renovated:** 2018

**Floors:** 6

**Rooms:** 333

**Check-in Time:** 3:00 PM

**Check-out Time:** 12:00 PM

## STAR Review

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### Location and History

This 30,000 sq-ft-hotel sits on the site of the historic Isaac Hunter tavern dating to 1769. Though the tavern is long gone, it's where area leaders met to hash out where the state capital would be located, decreeing it be within 10 miles of Hunter's plantation. The lobby displays items from the era as well as framed historic descriptions and images that tell an interesting story—hence the hotel's slogan "where hospitality meets history."

The hotel is within walking distance (about a mile, or take the complimentary shuttle) to the growing and popular Midtown area known for North Hills Mall with eateries, boutique shops, movies, and hi-rise, residential condos.

The hotel interior is tastefully modern, despite the exterior's uninspired beige block; the exception being the refurbished welcoming main entrance's modern signage and porte cochere.

### Property Overview

Staff is welcoming, and the vast lobby is head-turning with oversize beige ceramic tile floors in contrast to dark wood and grays, browns and oranges in modern seating and rugs. A focal point near reception is its central, modern fireplace column sporting metal mesh from the high ceiling to its low, open base; the short surround flame is electric illuminated water vapor.

Gone are walls that once partitioned off a dance area and restaurant. Instead, the totally open-floor concept is one massive and attractive room housing the restaurant 88 Oaks Kitchen and its large, glistening bar, plus a grab-and-go Marketplace of salads, sandwiches and more featuring Starbucks coffee. A business center area is also here with tall chairs at a table holding four computers. Additional high-backed armchairs and footstools overlook a separate, large, flat-screen TV. Fresh air is noticeable throughout thanks to a state-of-the-art HVAC system.

The dedicated indoor pool area and large, adjacent outdoor deck, are a welcome surprise. Light streams in via overhead skylights, and three large sliders open to the rock-lined patio with seating. There's also a hot tub. Across the hall, a 24-hour fitness center is available.

### Accommodations

Elevators and stairs, as well as hallways, are well-lit and easily accessed leading to rooms matching the urban-chic vibe of the lobby and continuing the brown and beige tones in decor. Each room has individual heat and air controls and a rolling work chair at a desk. Bedside lamps have modern design, but there are no USB ports bedside.

Baths feature combination tubs in doubles while kings have walk-in showers, as well as portable magnifying mirrors on countertops and

Crabtree & Evelyn toiletries. Towels are fairly plush, but robes are only provided for sixth-floor rooms, the highest level.

Sixth-floor guests and Diamond status Hilton Honors members have key access to a Concierge Lounge offering two flatscreen TVs plus two computers for use. The breakfast is complimentary, and later in the day, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres are available. The space, with work and leisure seating, is quiet with dark floors and artsy carpeting

There is a presidential suite available.

### Nonstandard Amenities

All guest rooms offer recycling bins, which are located near public meeting rooms, too.

Free, self-serve parking offers two electric-vehicle charging stations near the entrance.

### Advisor Notes

Rooms do have coffee/tea self-serve stations.

Surprisingly, rooms are very quiet considering the hotel's location on busy Wake Forest Road across from Duke Raleigh Hospital.

As the largest hotel in Wake County, NC, this property is especially noted for corporate meetings, business travelers and groups (about 45%) mixed with leisure guests.

### Comparable Properties

Similar experiences can be found at the Marriott Crabtree Valley also in Raleigh, and the Sheraton Imperial in nearby Durham.

### Room Amenities

**(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)**

Cable/Satellite Television  
Daily Maid Service  
Iron/Ironing Board  
Refrigerator  
Safe (In Room)  
Television

Air Conditioning  
Coffeemaker  
Free Newspaper  
Microwave Oven  
Rooms for Non-smokers  
Telephone  
Voicemail

### Hotel Facilities

#### General Services

ATM/Bank  
Children/Teen Programs  
Concierge Services  
Concierge/Club Floor  
Currency Exchange  
Free Onsite Parking  
Gift Shop  
Laundry Room  
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service  
Multi-lingual Staff  
Room Service  
Wheelchair Access to  
Common/Public Areas

#### Business Services

Administrative Services  
A-V Equipment  
Business Center  
Copier  
Fax  
Meeting Facilities  
Personal Computer

#### Pet Services

Additional Fee for Pets  
Pets Allowed

#### Security

Electronic Key/Lock  
Parking Area Well Lit  
Smoke Alarm in Rooms  
Sprinkler in Rooms  
Surveillance Cameras On Site  
Uniformed Security

### Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 4 restaurants and 1 bar On Site

**88 Oaks Carolina Kitchen and Bar** Restaurant

### Recreation

#### Nearby

Beach  
Bicycling  
Boating/Sailing

#### On-Site

Health Club  
Hot Tub  
Pool (Indoor Pool)

Fishing  
Golf Course  
Health Spa/Massage  
Horseback Riding  
Jogging Trails  
Pool (Outdoor Pool)  
Shopping Mall/Area  
Tennis (Indoor Tennis)

### **Rates & Policies**

*Rates are Daily in USD*

**Standard:** \$203-\$413

**Suite:** \$264-\$708

**Meals:** Full Breakfast Included

**Deposit Policy:** 1st night's deposit or credit card guarantee for arrival past 4 pm

**Cancellation Policy:** See rate rules for cancellation requirements

### **Location**

In Raleigh, closest nearby city is Raleigh. Wake Forest Road & I-440. 15 min east of airport; 5 min north of downtown.

### **Nearest Airport**

Raleigh-Durham Intl- 12 mi Southeast, 15 min drive

### **Nearby See & Do**

NC Museum of Art (Museum)- 3 mi to the South

Nc Museum of Natural History (Museum)- 3 mi to the South

State Capitol (Monument)- 3 mi to the South

Credit Cards Are Accepted

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

# Raleigh Marriott City Center, Raleigh, North Carolina

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## Hotel Profile

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500 Fayetteville St  
Raleigh, NC

**Phone:** 1 919-833-1120  
**Fax:** 1 919-334-0419  
**Toll Free:** 800-228-9290

**Website:** <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdumc-raleigh-marriott-city-center/>

**General Manager:** Joel Fuller

**Chain:** Marriott International

**Chain Web:** <http://www.marriott.com>

**STAR Rating:**



**Amenity Rating:**



**Renovated:** 0

**Floors:** 17

**Rooms:** 400

**Check-in Time:** 4:00 PM

**Check-out Time:** 12:00 PM

## STAR Review

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### Location and History

Connected to the convention center, next door to the Sheraton, and one block from Red Hat Amphitheatre, this is a reliable player downtown that outshines the Sheraton down the street.

Built in 2008, Marriott's accommodations, dining, meeting space and service are in line with the brand image. The property offers an indoor pool, fitness center and concierge level that provides access to a private lounge.

It's housed in a prominent modern building rising 17 stories at the corner of Lenoir and Fayetteville streets, so finding this hotel is rarely a problem. Both the Sheraton and Marriott were constructed to cater to and complement the Raleigh Convention Center across the street.

### Property Overview

Valets are stationed beneath a wide shielding porte cochere, while bellhops flit about the bustling lobby trimmed in acres of marble and bright with trendy lampshade chandeliers. The entire entrance and reception area bustles with activity from business and leisure travelers, families and convention goers.

The modern look is notably more sophisticated than what you find at the Sheraton. Here, escalators, digital signs and towering ceilings frame the comings and goings.

With Red Hat Amphitheatre so close by, you never know what touring act you just might run into in the lobby or bar. It's also an easy walk to performances at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

Rye Bar and Southern Kitchen is a welcoming space with friendly staff serving a refined version of traditional Southern cuisine for three meals daily. The culinary team incorporates herbs grown on the rooftop garden, where bees also provide the honey in the specialty butter served. The lobby grab-and-go market and sundry shop features NC specialty products such as Cheerwine soda, and some portions of sales on some items benefit local charities.

Early risers can grab a venti at Starbucks in the lobby. As the only Starbucks downtown, there's a street side entrance, too, so expect to rub elbows with the locals.

A good-sized indoor pool and hot tub are surrounded by lots of natural light and offer plenty of loungers plus city views from their fourth-floor perch. The lobby business center has three computers and two printers available. The fitness center provides Life Fitness brand equipment and even a pair of Peloton bikes.

### Accommodations

A large bank of elevators serves guests well, shuttling scads of happy conventioners to and fro. The sleek rooms are stylish and contemporary and provide Marriott's superlative Revive beds and bedding, with pillow-top mattresses, high-thread-count sheets, throws



and throw pillows. Desks are designed for road warriors and the expected amenities are in place, including decent storage space in all rooms.

The baths have seamless glass doors for walk-in showers or tub-shower combo with curtain, plus ADA accessible showers or tubs in designated rooms. All supply generous vanity space, hair dryers, magnifying mirrors and massaging showerheads.

Limited city views are the best one can hope for, though the higher the floor the better the view. Families will want to book one of the affordable suites because the price of two adjoining rooms is often more than a suite.

### Nonstandard Amenities

In warm weather, guests can arrange a rickshawlike pedicab pickup just outside via advance online booking.

### Advisor Notes

This hotel remains in excellent shape. Few familiar with Marriott will find fault with this determined commercial player, which makes good use of its 15,119 sq ft meeting space.

### Comparable Properties

This downtown property compares with North Hills Renaissance and Raleigh Marriott Crabtree.

### Room Amenities

**(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)**

Cable/Satellite Television

Daily Maid Service

Iron/Ironing Board

Refrigerator

Telephone

Voicemail

Air Conditioning

Coffeemaker

Free Newspaper (some)

Microwave Oven

Rooms for Non-smokers

Television

### Hotel Facilities

#### General Services

ATM/Bank

Complimentary Coffee

Concierge Services

Concierge/Club Floor

Crib/Rollaway Bed

Gift Shop

Laundry Room

Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service

Paid Onsite Parking

Room Service

Wheelchair Access to

Common/Public Areas

#### Business Services

Business Center

Copier

Fax

Meeting Facilities

#### Security

Electronic Key/Lock

Parking Area Well Lit

Smoke Alarm in Rooms

Sprinkler in Rooms

Surveillance Cameras On Site

Uniformed Security

Valet Parking Service

### Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 1 restaurant and 1 bar On Site

**Posta Tuscan Grille** American cuisine

**Bar Posta** Lounge

### Recreation

#### Nearby

Golf Course

Health Spa/Massage

Jogging Trails

Shopping Mall/Area

#### On-Site

Health Club

Hot Tub

Pool (Indoor Pool)

### Rates & Policies

**Cancellation Policy:** 24 hours

Credit Cards Are Accepted  
Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

**Location**

Salisbury. Located in downtown Raleigh, attached to the Raleigh Convention Ctr. Convention Center.

**Nearest Airport**

Raleigh-Durham Intl- 14 mi West, 20 min drive

**Nearby See & Do**

PNC Arena (Sports Arena)  
Red Hat Amphitheater (Venue)  
Duke Energy Center for Performing Arts

# Renaissance Raleigh North Hills Hotel, Raleigh, North Carolina

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## Hotel Profile

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4100 Main at North Hills St  
Raleigh, NC

**Phone:** 1 919-571-8773

**Fax:** 1 919-571-8993

**Toll Free:** 800-800-MARRIOTT

**E-mail:** [ren-raleigh@concordhotels.com](mailto:ren-raleigh@concordhotels.com)

**Website:** <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdurn-renaissance-raleigh-north-hills-hotel/>

**General Manager:** Melissa Chunn

**Chain:** Renaissance Hotels

**Chain Web:** <https://renaissance-hotels.marriott.com/>

**STAR Rating:**



**Amenity Rating:**



**Price:**



**Renovated:** 2017

**Floors:** 10

**Rooms:** 229

**Check-in Time:** 4:00 PM

**Check-out Time:** 12:00 PM

## STAR Review

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### Location and History

Located Midtown and anchoring the south end of North Hills Mall (look for Target), this is the best of the bunch aimed at North Hills shoppers and travelers headed to the nearby hospital, commercial headquarters and NCSU athletic events. Its position just off the Beltline makes it convenient to most of the city's attractions and downtown's growing financial and tech center.

Its crisp, conservative contemporary decor is amply realized, service is swift, and the accommodations are tricked out with the latest technology. This property is a bright beacon of hospitality and comfort north of the state Capitol building. Decor is modern, comfortable and in quite good condition, and rolling renovations keep things fresh.

### Property Overview

The mid-rise, 10-story building rises like a beacon at one end of the mall's main entrance, hence the "Main at North Hills" street address. The lobby—with clean lines, light woods and marble floor—provides a taste of urban style in its streamlined modern furnishings, fashionable lighting and upscale art pieces.

Look up for a suspended overhead large piece inspired by the Wright Brothers' first manned flight, a momentous day in North Carolina history. The lobby is soaring so that on the second level you come eye-to-eye with the piece and can see all the happenings below.

41Hundred Restaurant and Lounge, the hotel's sole eatery, takes its name from the property's street address. It does a good job of impressing guests and outsiders with its nature-inspired decor, including artificial grass underfoot, and creative regional and American fare. The copper-fronted bar provides an abbreviated menu for those on the go, and a nearby Ruth's Chris suits the habits of carnivores.

Dining is intentionally limited; there are more than two dozen dining options within a 10-minute stroll. Reception staff are all Navigation Certified, which is a Marriott designation for concierge services with a focus on local businesses and attractions.

Room and public space renovations have drawn inspiration from Raleigh's greenways and parks. The wow factor is found on Level 2, called the Inner Terrace, where much of each far end wall is greenery. The hotel's nod to travelers hitting the road with their laptops, kindles and smartphones is a communal Discovery Table and "library" with artistic open honeycomb shelving holding very few books.

### Accommodations

All of the rooms sport a designer's touch in contemporary style, with artistic lamp, task and floor lighting, exotic wood and texture accents, including on a signature chair. Room decor is a mix of harmonious gray, white, beige and brown tones. Large, dark wood headboards feature inset reading lights on either side.

Amenities are right in line with this chain's reputation for mod cons, and a desk on wheels is a thoughtful addition that fits neatly under

the table when not needed.

Bright granite and ebony baths are equipped with a roomy vanity, magnifying mirror, toiletry kit and hair dryer. Products are by Aveda. In suites, tubs sport massaging jets and angled curtains that give bathers more room to scrub and shave. The surprise is the 20-inch TV projection within the bath mirror.

Views are not much to write home about, with parking lots and entry roads creating a visual concrete tic-tac-toe. Connecting rooms will suit families, though there are a half-dozen suites that are just as economical.

Club level lounge access that includes breakfast and nightly hors d'oeuvres, is for guests on floors 9 and 10. Rooms here include Keurig coffee makers, 55-inch TVs and robes. There is also a presidential suite.

### Nonstandard Amenities

Self-parking is free of charge; valets exact a \$24 fee that does not include a tip. Parking does include access to a dozen electric charging stations.

If walking or venturing out does not suit, complimentary shuttle service is provided within North Hills.

### Advisor Notes

Meeting space is a big draw, with nine naturally lighted venues plus ballroom.

### Comparable Properties

This hotel is a standout in this location with well-rounded facilities and amenities.

### Room Amenities

#### (Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Cable/Satellite Television  
Daily Maid Service  
Refrigerator (some)  
Telephone  
Voicemail

Air Conditioning  
Coffeemaker  
Iron/Ironing Board  
Rooms for Non-smokers  
Television

### Hotel Facilities

#### General Services

ATM/Bank  
Concierge Services  
Concierge/Club Floor  
Crib/Rollaway Bed  
Free Onsite Parking  
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service  
Wheelchair Access to  
Common/Public Areas

#### Business Services

Administrative Services  
A-V Equipment  
Business Center  
Copier  
Fax  
Meeting Facilities

#### Security

Electronic Key/Lock  
Parking Area Well Lit  
Smoke Alarm in Rooms  
Sprinkler in Rooms  
Valet Parking Service

### Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 1 restaurant and 1 bar On Site

**41Hundred** Eclectic

### Recreation

#### Nearby

Golf Course  
Health Club  
Hot Tub  
Jogging Trails  
Pool (Indoor Pool)  
Shopping Mall/Area

### Rates & Policies

*Rates are Daily in USD*

**Standard:** \$339-\$372

**Meals:** No Meals Included

**Cancellation Policy:** 2 Days prior to day of arrival

**Location**

Near Raleigh. Main. In upscale North Hills shopping, dining and entertainment district.

**Nearest Airport**

Raleigh-Durham Intl- 12 mi East

**Nearby See & Do**

Raleigh North Hills (Shopping/Entertainment)

Progress Energy Center for Performing Arts (Concert Venue)- 7 mi to the South

North Carolina Theatre (Theatre)- 7 mi to the South

Credit Cards Are Accepted

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

## 21C Museum Hotel Durham, Durham, North Carolina

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### Hotel Profile

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111 Corcoran Street  
Durham, NC

**Phone:** 1 919-956-6700

**Fax:** 1 919-956-6701

**Toll Free:** 800-221-4542

**E-mail:** [dur.reservations@21chotels.com](mailto:dur.reservations@21chotels.com)

**Website:** <http://www.21cmuseumhotels.com/durham/>

**General Manager:** Null Null

**Chain:** MGallery by Sofitel

**Chain Web:** <http://www.mgallery.com>

**STAR Rating:**



**Amenity Rating:**



**Price:**



**Renovated:** 2016

**Floors:** 15

**Rooms:** 125

**Check-in Time:** 4:00 PM

**Check-out Time:** 11:00 AM

### STAR Review

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#### Location and History

The flagship 21c Museum Hotel was founded in Louisville, and other locations are now open in a handful of U.S. cities, most in historic buildings. Located in the heart of downtown Durham, the 21c Museum Hotel occupies the historic Hill Building, a former bank designed by Empire State Building architects in the late 1930s.

At 17 stories, this boutique property offers 125 rooms, a contemporary art museum and Counting House restaurant, which takes its name from the building's former bank days. It is an elegant, urban retreat in Durham's thriving downtown which has grown into a foodie haven.

#### Property Overview

The bellhop promptly greets visitors with a warm welcome and an offer of valet parking, which is recommended given the bustling downtown traffic. The registration area is unusual given its second-floor location, contemporary art displays and adjoining museum gift shop with a specially curated offering of accessories, jewelry and keepsakes. All 21c properties have their own uniquely colored flagship penguin—Durham's is fuchsia. Look for a pair of them to magically appear at different spots throughout the high-rise. One also stands in the gift shop showcase.

What makes the property unique is its emphasis on art spread over 10,500 sq ft of exhibition space. There's a fanciful collection in the restaurant including animal heads made of unusual materials. The art is open free to the public 24 hours daily, 365 days a year, plus free, docent-guided tours are offered twice weekly.

The surprise factor is the basement vault, where guests are encouraged to lounge on paired couches with a book or an after-dinner cocktail brought down from the main-floor restaurant's bar. The vault floor is covered in custom-made vinyl sporting a money bills motif, and all walls are lined with now-empty safety deposit boxes. The open vault door is a massive nod to industrial engineering.

On the same level as the vault is a small 24-hour fitness room. A bonus for a property this size is its on-site spa. Though small, it does offer a steam room and sauna free to guests, as well as in-room services.

The Hill Building's original terrazzo floors stand out as do the art-deco features prominent in elevators, stair railings and elsewhere. Look for gender neutral restrooms on the mezzanine level. Each large, unisex restroom is behind floor-to-ceiling glass. With a flip of the door lock, the glass becomes opaque.

#### Accommodations

Guest rooms feature high ceilings, wide windows, metal highlights and mod touches such as floor and bedside lamps. Decor in a gray, beige and white palette is attractive, and throw pillows pop as a fuchsia or burgundy accent. Low platform beds with quality duvets and

bedding plus low bedside tables add to the contemporary look.

Baths feature all glass surround, walk-in shower, large vanity with wall mirror trimmed with fuchsia neon lighting on either side, a magnifying mirror and fanciful yellow, rubber ducky. Bath products are (Malin Goetz).

### Nonstandard Amenities

Valet service is available 24 hours.

The central location at the corner of Corcoran and Main overlooks CCB Plaza and Durham's iconic bull statue. The location is a short walk to the highly-ranked Durham Performing Arts Center, the Durham Bulls Ballpark and the Carolina Theater. An excellent array of restaurants nearby can satisfy tastes from traditional southern cuisine to sushi, tapas and more.

### Advisor Notes

All 21c properties work toward helping the environment with recycling, conservation and carbon footprint reduction, including avoiding plastic straws, using biodegradable carry-out food containers, and even encouraging employees to use alternate transportation.

Guests range from business travelers, Duke University affiliates, and visitors drawn to Durham for festivals, performances and athletic events such as minor league Durham Bulls baseball and ACC standout Duke basketball.

### Comparable Properties

The 21c offers a more contemporary, art-focused ambiance relative to the neighboring Durham Hotel, which is best known for its hip, urban rooftop bar and fashionable restaurant.

### Room Amenities

**(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)**

Cable/Satellite Television  
Iron/Ironing Board  
Mini-Bar  
Safe (In Room)  
Television

Air Conditioning  
Coffeemaker  
Kitchen/Kitchenette (some)  
Rooms for Non-smokers  
Telephone  
Voicemail

### Hotel Facilities

#### General Services

ATM/Bank  
Complimentary Coffee  
Crib/Rollaway Bed  
Gift Shop  
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service  
Multi-lingual Staff  
Paid Onsite Parking  
Wheelchair Access to  
Common/Public Areas

#### Business Services

A-V Equipment  
Business Center  
Copier  
Meeting Facilities

#### Pet Services

Additional Fee for Pets  
Pets Allowed  
Size Limit of 50 lbs

#### Security

Electronic Key/Lock  
Parking Area Well Lit  
Smoke Alarm in Rooms  
Sprinkler in Rooms  
Surveillance Cameras On Site  
Uniformed Security  
Valet Parking Service

### Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 1 restaurant and 1 bar On Site

**Counting House** Regional dishes

**Counting House Bar**

### Recreation

#### Nearby

Bicycling  
Golf Course  
Shopping Mall/Area

#### On-Site

Health Club  
Health Spa/Massage

### Rates & Policies

*Rates are Daily in USD*

**Standard:** \$226-\$288 - approx 300 sq ft

**Suite:** \$323-\$377 - approx 510 sq ft

**Meals:** No Meals Included

**Deposit Policy:** certain dates require a non-refundable deposit of room tax for entire length of stay

**Cancellation Policy:** Free cancellation until 24hrs prior to arrival

### **Location**

In Durham. Corcoran St & Main St.

### **Nearest Airport**

Raleigh-Durham Intl- 14 mi Southeast, 18 min drive

### **Nearby See & Do**

Durham Performing Arts Center- .2 mi to the South

Durham Bulls Baseball Stadium- .3 mi to the South

Duke University- 2 mi to the West

Credit Cards Are Accepted

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card



## The Durham, Durham, North Carolina

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### Hotel Profile

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315 E Chapel Hill St  
Durham, NC

**Phone:** 1 919-768-8830  
**Fax:** 1 919-767-3417  
**E-mail:** [info@thedurham.com](mailto:info@thedurham.com)  
**Website:** <http://thedurham.com/>  
**General Manager:** Craig Spitzer

**Amenity Rating:** ✓✓✓✓✓  
**Price:** \$\$\$\$  
**Renovated:** 0  
**Floors:** 6  
**Rooms:** 53  
**Check-in Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Check-out Time:** 12:00 PM

### STAR Review

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#### Location and History

Centrally located in the heart of downtown Durham, The Durham Hotel offers a casual, yet stylish ambiance for business travelers and visitors to the area. Arriving guests get a warm welcome.

With just 53 rooms, this six-story boutique hotel provides an ideal combination of comfort and coziness all with a hip, urban vibe.

#### Property Overview

The mid-century modern decor offers a beautiful, yet urban feel from the moment one steps into the airy entry. The registration area flows into the lounge and dining area which is illuminated by floor-to-ceiling windows, modern lighting fixtures and carpeting in warm red, yellow and beige tones with black accents.

At the far end is a popular coffee bar where guests choose from three continental breakfast items. Throughout the day, downtown workers pop in for the specialty coffee drinks. Dining options include a coffee shop, rooftop raw bar and American restaurant by award-winner Andrea Reusing. The emphasis is on ingredients mainly sourced from North Carolina.

A visit to the rooftop cocktail lounge is highly recommended to take in the evening air while enjoying a glass of wine or a handcrafted cocktail. A select assortment of small bites and a seasonal raw bar are also available on the rooftop.

A 24-hour, small, fitness center is located in the basement; if more comprehensive fitness facilities are desired, access to the nearby YMCA with indoor pool is available via passes from the front desk. In addition, guests can take advantage of the hotel's rooftop yoga classes Thursday through Sunday. A newsstand just outside the lobby doors sells New York Times and Wall Street Journal Sunday editions and the local paper daily.

#### Accommodations

Guest rooms do not disappoint with stylishly modern interiors in muted tones and handmade denim blankets from Raleigh Denim. Baths include a walk-in shower with Japanese hinoki stool, and earth-friendly toiletry products from Fillaree. Bath glass and soap dish are from North Carolina's HAAND pottery and ceramics.

The Durham demonstrates its commitment to the community featuring local, artisanal minibar items and original prints commissioned with local artists. Durham is headquarters for Burt's Bees, and a complimentary hand lotion is bedside. In-room coffee features Durham's Counter Culture coffee freshly ground and delivered each morning at the time requested.

Guest rooms range from the Deluxe (325 sq. ft.) to the rooftop Penthouse Suite (1050 sq. ft.). While the Penthouse offers lovely indoor and outdoor space with panoramic views of the city, it also is directly adjacent to the highly trafficked bar area. For this reason, it is most commonly used as a party venue for small groups such as bridal parties and birthday celebrations.

## Nonstandard Amenities

If arriving via car, overnight valet is highly recommended; cost is \$14 daily. Continental breakfast is served 7-10 am daily in the restaurant featuring fresh squeezed juices, in-house baked goods and locally made granola, all complimentary for guests. In-room dining service is also available. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in guest rooms and all common areas. While the on-site restaurant has been highly recognized, guests should not overlook the variety of excellent dining options all within a short walk. The central location is second only to the neighboring 21c Museum Hotel, with convenient access to the Carolina Theater, Durham Performing Arts Center, the Durham Bulls ballpark and the American Tobacco District to name just a few.

## Advisor Notes

The property is smoke-free and pets are not allowed with the exception of service animals. Meeting space is available for board meetings, private screenings or company parties, with food and beverage service from Chef Reusing.

## Comparable Properties

The Durham Hotel provides a casually luxurious experience with local character and a hip, urban ambiance. It compares with neighbor 21c Museum Hotel, but is smaller.

## Room Amenities

**(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)**

Cable/Satellite Television  
Rooms for Non-smokers  
Television

Air Conditioning  
Coffeemaker (some)  
Telephone

## Hotel Facilities

### General Services

Paid Onsite Parking  
Wheelchair Access to  
Common/Public Areas

### Business Services

Business Center  
Meeting Facilities

### Security

Smoke Alarm in Rooms

## Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 1 restaurant and 1 bar On Site

## Recreation

### Nearby

Golf Course

### On-Site

Bicycling  
Health Club

## Rates & Policies

*Rates are Daily in USD*

**Standard:** \$239-\$314

**Suite:** \$337-\$337

**Meals:** Continental Plan

Credit Cards Are Accepted

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

## Location

In Durham.

## Nearest Airport

Raleigh-Durham Intl

## Nearby See & Do

Durham Performing Arts Center  
Carolina Theater

