

## HISTORY

Charlotte was incorporated in 1768. Its first settlers were Scotch-Irish, no-nonsense people who were hardy, industrious and independent. The city was named for Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III, and Mecklenburg County was named for her German home state.

Today, Charlotte has grown from 276 persons in 1768 to more than 750,000. The City covers 299 miles of the 527-square-mile Mecklenburg County.



## CULTURAL

Discovery Place, Spirit Square, The Mint Museum of Art, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Levine Museum of the New South, The Charlotte Symphony, Opera Carolina, N.C. Dance Theatre and the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, plus many more.

## RECREATION

210 city-county parks and recreational facilities; 16 theaters with 182 screens; 36 public and 21 private golf courses; several live theaters; Carowinds Entertainment Park; Verizon Wireless Amphitheater; U.S. National Whitewater Center; nearby Lake Norman, Lake Wylie and Mountain Island Lake; Carolina Panthers NFL Team; Charlotte Bobcats NBA Team; Quail Hollow Championship PGA Golf Tournament; Charlotte Knights (AAA baseball team); Charlotte Checkers (AHL hockey team); America's premier NASCAR facility — Charlotte Motor Speedway and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

## CHURCHES

More than 570 churches including Protestant, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Jewish and other faiths.



## SCHOOLS

As the largest school system in the Carolinas and the 18th largest in the nation, the consolidated Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system serves more than 135,000 students in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The system operates 158 schools including grades K-12. There are 88 elementary, 39 middle, 28 senior high schools and four special programs, all of which are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The system is administered by a nine-member Board of Education. Six members represent districts and three are elected at-large. Each member serves a four-year term.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Registration:** An owner must register his or her auto(s) by submitting proof of ownership to the Department of Motor Vehicles, 6016 Brookshire Boulevard or 5622 East Independence Boulevard. To transfer the title of a used vehicle already registered in North Carolina, the new owner must present the certificate of title properly assigned by the former owner along with an odometer statement for cars 10 years old or newer.

**License Tags:** Anyone moving to North Carolina must get a North Carolina license tag for his/her car. To be sure you are within the law, check with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The state of North Carolina's annual motor vehicle registration license fee is \$30.00 per private passenger vehicle. In addition, motor vehicles "resident" within Mecklenburg County are subject to a property tax based on the assessed value of the vehicle. The owner is billed four months after the vehicle's registration date and annually thereafter.

**Driver's License:** Newcomers from out-of-state have 30 days after establishing residence in which to get a North Carolina license. Examination for the license consists of tests for vision, recognition of traffic signs, knowledge of traffic laws and safety, and driving ability with a possible road test. Online information available at: [www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv)

**Inspection:** All cars must have an annual mechanical inspection and must be inspected within 10 days of purchase of a North Carolina license plate.

**Insurance:** Ownership of liability insurance (or equivalent cash or bond) is a prerequisite to register a motor vehicle in North Carolina. Only liability is

required — not collision, fire or comprehensive. Minimum amount required is \$25,000 for injuries to any one person in an accident, \$50,000 for all personal injuries in an accident and \$15,000 for all property damages in an accident.

**Air:** Seven major airlines and four regional carriers provide 680 daily flights including nonstop service to London, Toronto, San Juan, Cancun, Frankfurt and Munich. The airport boards more than 19 million passengers annually.

## VOTING

To vote in North Carolina you must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the state for 30 days prior to the date of the election. Registration can be made at the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections, 741 Kenilworth Avenue or at any branch of the Public Library. Call 704-336-2133 for other scheduled locations.

## TAXES

Personal and real property (in Mecklenburg County) must be listed with the Mecklenburg County Tax Department, 700 East Stonewall Street (28202) during the month of January for the entire year.

Property located within the city limits of Charlotte is taxed at the rate of \$1.2536 per \$100 valuation (combined city-county rates). Outside city limits but within Mecklenburg County, property is taxed at \$.8166 per \$100 assessed valuation. Valuation is based on 100 percent of market value as of January 6, 2011.

A 4.25 percent state tax plus a 3 percent local tax make up the 7.25 percent Mecklenburg County sales tax. There is an additional tax of 2 percent on prepared food purchases and the hotel room occupancy rate is 8 percent.



## MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are three general hospitals in Charlotte. Carolinas Medical Center is a teaching institution with a broad spectrum of intern and resident programs. CMC-Mercy and Presbyterian are also well known for their high level of professional care.

Specialty hospitals include Behavioral Health Centers, Carolinas Rehabilitation, Hemby Children's Hospital, Levine Children's Hospital, OrthoCarolina and the Presbyterian Orthopaedic Hospital. There is also a wide variety of short and long-term nursing homes.

## CLIMATE

Charlotte, 765 feet above sea level, enjoys a truly moderate climate. Cold weather is rare, due in part to the sheltering effect of the mountains to the west. January is the coldest month, with an average temperature of 39.3 degrees. Snow is light and infrequent, occurring from December through March.

Summers in Charlotte are comfortably warm. July averages 79.3 degrees. The frost-free season averages 230 days from mid-March to mid-November. Average annual precipitation is 43 inches.



## HOUSING

Charlotte offers an almost endless variety of housing locations. There are apartments, condominiums and single-family homes located in neighborhoods, subdivisions, planned unit developments and recreational developments. Each of these is grouped in urban, suburban, rural and even river and lake-front settings. An excellent inventory of homes can be found in Charlotte at all times. During an average month, you can expect to find more than 5,000 homes for sale including new, resale, townhouses and condominiums. Prices range from \$50,000 for starter homes to luxury homes valued in the millions. The average sales price for a home in Mecklenburg County is \$212,000.

## INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

More than 173,000 students are enrolled at the 35 colleges and universities within the Charlotte area. Contact information can be found at [www.charlottechamber.com](http://www.charlottechamber.com).

## NEWS MEDIA

One daily paper; 28 radio stations; good reception from eight commercial and three PBS television stations; cable TV available; 20 weekly newspapers.



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## QUICK REFERENCE NUMBERS

### Emergency

All Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency . . . . . 911

### Non-Emergency Numbers

Ambulance Information . . . . . 704-943-6200  
 City-County Police Information . . . . . 704-336-7600  
 City Fire Information . . . . . 704-336-2441  
 Childcare Resources . . . . . 704-376-6697  
 County Fire Information . . . . . 704-943-6200  
 Dental Society . . . . . 704-376-6555  
 Employment Security Commission . . . . . 704-531-5000  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation . . . . . 704-377-9200  
 Mecklenburg County Bar Association . . . . . 704-375-0120  
 Medical Society . . . . . 704-376-0847  
 North Carolina Highway Patrol . . . . . 800-572-8765  
 Poison Control Center . . . . . 800-222-1222  
 YMCA . . . . . 704-333-7771  
 YWCA . . . . . 704-525-5770

### Hospitals

Carolinas Medical Center . . . . . 704-355-2000  
 Carolinas Medical Center — Mercy . . . . . 704-379-5000  
 Presbyterian . . . . . 704-384-4000

### Public Services/Information

City-County Government Information . . . . . 311 or 704-336-7600  
 United Way Information & Referral Services . . . . . 211 or 704-372-7170  
 Library Information Desk . . . . . 704-336-2725

### Schools

Board of Education . . . . . 980-343-3000  
 Public Information . . . . . 980-343-7450

### Utilities

Electricity (Duke Energy) . . . . . 800-777-9898  
 Natural Gas (Piedmont Natural Gas Co.) . . . . . 800-752-7504

Telephone (AT&T) . . . . . 800-288-2020  
 Water (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities)  
 On, Off & Transfer . . . . . 704-336-2211  
 Emergency Water Maintenance . . . . . 704-336-2564  
 Emergency Sewer Maintenance . . . . . 704-336-7600

### Voting

Board of Elections . . . . . 704-336-2133



## THE VISITOR & RELOCATION CENTER

Visitor Info Center, the Visitor and Relocation Center, extends a warm welcome to visitors and newcomers from across the country. Visitor Info Center can be found on the corner of South Tryon Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, in the heart of Uptown. Because of its location in the Center City, Visitor Info Center attracts newcomers and tourists from across the country, as well as locals with its wealth of information.

Visitor Info Center offers newcomers a glimpse of Charlotte's prominent businesses that cater to newcomers and visitors alike. These businesses include:

- Home service providers
- Charlotte schools and higher education
- Homebuilders, realtors and apartment guides
- Banks and lending organizations
- Churches, social and nonprofit organizations
- Recreational and service organizations

Visitor Info Center is also home to Ticketmaster, the only uptown ticket outlet, as well as Amélie's, a French Bakery.

For more information, please visit us online at [www.charlottechamber.com](http://www.charlottechamber.com) or call 704-378-1300.

# BOOM,

just like that, it hits you. You are responsible for choosing the right location for your family. You spent hours reviewing information on the internet and realize your options are enormous. You need to find a location that is just right for you and your family. It has to be a place where your family can grow and prosper. A place with superior air service, exceptional but affordable quality of life, a nationally ranked education system, a reasonable cost of living and a community willing to open itself to you. All of a sudden, one community stands out. **Welcome to Charlotte.**



330 South Tryon St., Charlotte, N.C. 28232 | 704.378.1300  
[www.BOOMcharlotte.com](http://www.BOOMcharlotte.com)



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