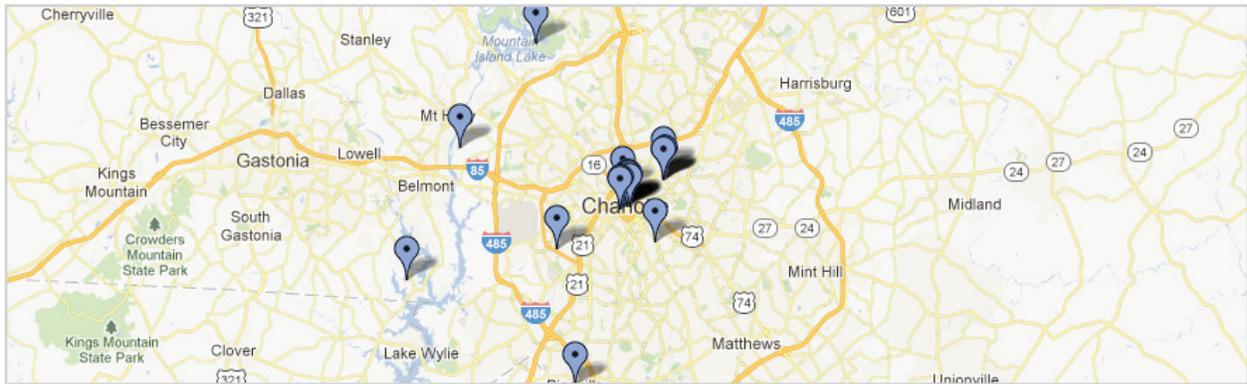


## 3-Day Itinerary

# City of Culture: Museums, Music, and More in Charlotte



As North Carolina's largest city, Charlotte has much to offer in art, history, and culture. Come spend three days in the Queen City and discover a great sampling of museums, music and more!

### Day 1

Discover what life was like in 18th Century Charlotte and then spend an evening in the city's funky NoDa arts and entertainment district.

### Day 2

Explore a series of fascinating museums in the Uptown area and enjoy endless nightlife opportunities in the city's urban core.

### Day 3

Find out how a president and a preacher both trace their beginnings to Charlotte, then get adventurous outdoors and explore botanical wonders in Belmont.

*With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.*

## Day One

Once a successful cotton plantation, **Historic Latta Plantation** offers a look back in time to 1800's Charlotte life. Costumed interpreters, historic displays and hands-on activities allow visitors to experience what life was like for the planters, yeoman farmers, and enslaved African-Americans of the North Carolina backcountry in the early 19th century. Explore the home of James Latta, built circa 1800, as well as original and replica outbuildings and historically appropriate farming practices and livestock.

Head south to the **Historic Rosedale Plantation**, built in 1815 on a quiet wooded lot and now only minutes from modern Uptown Charlotte. The home is one of the finest examples of Federal Period architecture in North Carolina, and is noted for its faux grained woodwork and the original French wallpaper that survives in three rooms. Guided tours are available Thursday through Sunday.

From here, it's time to get back to the present day by exploring **NoDa**, Charlotte's popular arts district. The name is a shortening of "North Davidson", the street that makes up the heart of this bustling community. Stroll through the shops and galleries and then enjoy sweet and savory crepes and European dishes at **Crepe Cellar Kitchen & Pub**.

Afterwards, enjoy local craft beers at **Growlers Pourhouse** or bring your four-legged friend out with you to the **Dog Bar**. If you enjoy live music, NoDa has two eclectic venues worth checking out, **The Evening Muse** and **The Neighborhood Theatre**. If you're lucky enough to come on the first or third Friday of the month, you'll have a great time as the entire NoDa community participates in one of its Gallery Crawls.

## Day Two

Today, it's time to museum-hop, and there's no better place to start than the **Mint Museum Randolph**, which became North Carolina's first art museum when it opened to the public in 1936. The building actually served as the first branch of the United State Mint, coining \$5 million in gold between 1836 and the outbreak of the Civil War. Today, the museum hosts a rich and diverse collection of art, ceramics, photography and much more.

Now, come Uptown and stop in for a casual Southern lunch at **Mert's Heart and Soul**, then walk over to **Discovery Place**, where you can explore physics, rainforests, oceans and more in one of the country's top interactive museums. While you're here, be sure to take in a movie at the **IMAX Dome Theatre** for a truly amazing experience.

Also nearby is the **Levine Museum of the New South**, which delves into the history of the Charlotte region since the end of the Civil War with its award-winning exhibit, "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers." Visitors can explore the major reinventions of Charlotte in the past 150 years, which resulted in critical turning points in industry, city planning and civil rights.

Finally, head to the **Levine Center for the Arts**, where three museums occupy one culture-rich city block. Stop in at the **Mint Museum Uptown**, a sister facility of the Mint Museum Randolph that digs deep into North Carolina's celebrated craft tradition as well as American and contemporary art. The **Bechtler Museum of Modern Art** is dedicated to mid-20th-century European and American modern art collected by the Swiss Bechtler family, while the **Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Art + Culture** showcases the cultural achievements of African-American artists like Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

When it's time to wind down, you're in the right place! **Center City Charlotte** literally has dozens of bars and restaurants to choose from for your evening activities, ranging from laid-back wine bars to intense dance clubs to authentic Irish pubs. With a little planning, you'll be able to catch a performance at one of the diverse venues belonging to **Blumenthal Performing Arts**, or perhaps a big-name concert or professional sporting event at **Time Warner Cable Arena**. End the night on a high note at **The EpiCentre** or **NC Music Factory**, two multi-use entertainment complexes where you can dance and dine the night away until the wee hours.

### Day Three

He's been a pastor to millions and an advisor to eight presidents. Now, Billy Graham's legacy is preserved for future generations at the **Billy Graham Library** on the southwest side of Charlotte. The \$27 million facility is designed to resemble a dairy barn and chronicles the life of "America's Pastor," from his boyhood days in rural North Carolina to preaching in the world's largest stadiums and arenas.

Then, head to **Pineville** for a visit to the birthplace of the 11th U.S. President, **James K. Polk**. Located on a portion of the land that was once part of the 150-acre Polk family farm, the site includes a reconstructed log cabin with furnishings of the time period, a visitor's center with exhibits on the life of President Polk and a picnic area.

Now, head south on I-85 to the **U.S. National Whitewater Center**, where a hearty lunch at the on-site **River's Edge Bar and Grill** will fuel your adventures at this outdoor recreation center. Zip lines, activity courses, rock climbing, kayaking and rafting on the world's largest man-made whitewater river are all located on over 400 acres of beautiful North Carolina land and invite nature novices and Olympic-caliber athletes alike to get outside and play.

Continue your outdoor excursion and head south from Belmont on NC Highway 279 to the **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden**, named one of America's "20 Great Gardens" in HGTV's popular book *Flower Gardening*. The Garden features 100 acres of themed plant life, including the **Orchid Conservatory**, which is the only glass house in the Carolinas dedicated to the display of orchids and tropical plants.

Finally, finish up your visit back in Charlotte with an authentic Southern meat-and-threes meal at **King's Kitchen**, a not-for-profit restaurant by beloved area chef Jim Noble. Savor delectable regional, "down-home" classics in this upscale yet comfortable setting in Center City. Signatures like Aunt Beaut's Pan Fried Chicken, King's meatloaf and Karen's Pot Roast will set your mouth watering. Don't forget to save room for the out-of-this-world banana pudding!

**Where to eat:**

Crepe Cellar Kitchen & Pub – lunch, dinner

Mert's Heart and Soul – breakfast, lunch, dinner

River's Edge Bar and Grill – lunch, dinner

King's Kitchen – lunch, dinner

**For more information:**

Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority  
[www.charlottesgotalot.com](http://www.charlottesgotalot.com)

Visit Gaston County  
[www.visitgaston.org](http://www.visitgaston.org)

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