

Raleigh NC Highlights Tour



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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Tour Summary

The first thing visitors notice is how green the city is, with lots of grand old trees and vibrantly flowering shrubs; even on the interstate highways you feel like you're in the country because the buildings are discreetly tucked behind lush foliage.

Welcome to my home - the state capital, gateway to Research Triangle Park, and home of technology and pharmaceutical companies. Raleigh is spread out over a large area and has been growing rapidly for decades, so it isn't easy to find your way around. That's why you need to follow me! This tour focuses on the downtown center, but there are many other attractions in the area that are worthwhile. As a long-time resident of Raleigh, it is my pleasure to take you to a few of my favorite places.

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Introduction





Raleigh is the state capital, the gateway to the Research Triangle Park, and the home of technology and pharmaceutical companies. It's also my home, and my city has been growing rapidly for decades, so it isn't easy to find your way around. Watch out for streets whose names or

directions have changed; our signage has improved, but it can still be confusing.



This tour focuses on the downtown center, but there are many other attractions in the area that are worthwhile. I've avoided mentioning shopping centers, antique stores, parks, and the numerous community theaters due to the length of the tour. About 5,000 people live downtown, but most folks live out in the suburbs.



The best view of the downtown skyline is this approach from the south. We're still not as big as Charlotte, but we're catching up and have reached more than 400,000 in population. The metropolitan area that's called the Triangle includes Durham, Chapel Hill, and the cities in between, and

boasts a population of 1.5 million people.
We're about the same size as the Hampton
Roads area.



On a daily basis, about 200,000 passengers use one of the two terminals at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. The entire complex covers more than 5,000 acres

and serves more than nine million people per year. A \$570 million expansion was completed in 2011.



A growing number of people arrive by train with the service provided by Amtrak. Long-distance trains include the Carolinian that operates daily between New York and Charlotte and the Silver Palm that operates between New York and Florida. Local service

includes the Piedmont that operates three trains daily between Charlotte and Raleigh.



Raleigh started as a small village more than 200 years ago. The State Capitol Building, built in 1840, is one of the oldest surviving structures in the city. The key feature is the rotunda, and the building is open for tours and free to the public. The capitol and

adjoining museums are very popular with children. You will see some of the oldest buildings in the city on this tour.



The Bicentennial Mall stretches between the old capitol and new State Legislative Building, and includes the Museum of History and the Museum of Natural Sciences. Admission to all of the buildings is free except for special exhibits.



At the opposite end of Fayetteville Street from the old capitol is the Performing Arts Center Complex. We recently spent \$10 million renovating Fayetteville Street, and we're very

proud of it. The plaza hosts seasonal outdoor events, such as ice skating and the annual Artspllosure festival.



The first thing visitors notice is how green the city is, with lots of tall trees and flowering shrubs. We don't have mountains or beaches, but we do have lots of greenery and other colors in nature. Raleigh has four distinct seasons with vivid seasonal colors

throughout the year. In the spring you will see redbud, cherry, tulip and pear trees plus acres of azaleas.



In the summer, you will see our broad boulevards lined with crape myrtle trees. Raleigh requires a landscaped set-back along roads to obscure parking lots, strip malls, etc. We're not as picky as Cary, but most folks are surprised when all they see from the interstate highways are trees that obscure the buildings and residences

behind them. They think they're in the country rather than in the middle of a metropolitan area.



In the fall, you will see brilliant foliage all over the city, but it is particularly spectacular around the many small lakes within the city. This view is only one section of the 65 miles of greenway trails.



In late winter of February and early March, you will see camellias in bloom that may last until April in protected gardens. We have mild winters with golfing year-round, so come and visit us anytime of the year!

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