

Triangle Living

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Triangle Living

Overview

From her earliest days, Durham has been a city focused upon the value of innovative business endeavors guided by ingenious business persons. In 1865, Durham was but a mere railroad stop serving as home to fewer than 100 people. However, the entrepreneurial spirit of those like Washington Duke and Julian S. Carr propelled Durham into an industrial age founded on energy production and mechanized cigarette manufacturing. These men decided that Durham would be the “City of the New South.”

About Durham

The Durham of the past was a city with traditional Southern charm and industries: tobacco and textiles. The Durham of the present retains that Southern charm, but is now a major center for research and development (R&D) and “City of Medicine, USA.” With entities like Glaxo-Wellcome, Becton-Dickinson, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences all working hard to improve the world’s well-being from their local facilities, Durham’s claim as America’s City of Medicine is well-founded.

From smokestacks to research, from textiles to medicine, from tobacco to technology; Durham has made the transition to 21st century business in an innovative and smooth manner that other communities still can only dream of developing. Durham, City of Medicine, is proud both of her significant heritage and her bright future.

Durham is about 16 miles across, 25 miles long, and 28 miles corner to corner. It is a very compact city, a 296 square-mile community. Durham has a population of 148,000 and a work force of about 101,000 people. Another 40,000 people commute from nearby communities. There is a strong mix of people here, offering a rich history and diverse mix of natives, “relocated Yankees,” scholars, artisans, and both white-collar and blue-collar workers with a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. Durham is host to two major universities. North Carolina Central University dates from 1910 when Dr. James Shepard founded a liberal arts college for African Americans in Durham. Trinity College moved from Randolph County to its present location in Durham in the late 1800s. Washington Duke donated \$85,000 to facilitate the move, and Julian Carr donated the original plot of land. James Buchanan Duke donated \$40 million, and the college was renamed Duke University in 1924.

Getting Around

Getting around a smaller city like Durham should be relatively easy, right? Well, sure. But there are a few things that you ought to know. The first is a difficult lesson to grasp. Traveling in Durham is not unlike working in a Windows environment on an IBM computer. There are at least three ways to get from point A to point B, and it will take the same amount of time. Some say that the city streets were paved over cow paths, but more likely the primary roads were frequently traveled paths between tobacco fields and the warehouses.

Here are some tips gathered about getting around Durham:

- The place where Chapel Hill Street crosses Main Street in Downtown Durham is called “Five Points.”
- Chapel Drive (on campus), Chapel Hill Street (turns into Duke University Road), Chapel Hill Road, Chapel Hill Boulevard (commonly called “The Boulevard”), and OLD Chapel Hill Boulevard are all different streets.
- Duke University Road, University Drive, and Duke Street are also distinct entities.
- Duke University Road turns into Chapel Hill Street at Kent Street (with no warning).
- The freeway that runs through the center of Durham may be called one of several names: East-West Expressway, The Durham Freeway, 147, or S.R. 147.
- While it seems like you could, there is no way to drive through the center of East or West campus and come out on the other side. (Do not try!) Campus Drive connects East and West Campus.
- NC 751 can be referred to by a number of names as well: 751, Cameron Boulevard, and, perhaps more confusing, shortly after the Washington Duke Golf Course, it splits and becomes Academy for a short while before it comes to a “T” intersection at University Drive. It continues as Hope Valley Road when you go two lights east on University Drive.
- Regular 15-501 is sometimes referred to as the 15-501 Bypass as opposed to 15-501 Business.
- There is an Erwin Road and an Old Erwin Road. Erwin runs in front of the University Medical Center and becomes Ninth Street. Old Erwin is connected to “751/Cameron” and runs into Chapel Hill (referred to as the “back way to Chapel Hill”) and connects with 15-501 just before Franklin Street. To make things just slightly more confusing, Old Erwin is also called “The Erwin Road Extension.”

Local Public Transportation

American Public Transportation Association

http://www.apta.com/links/state_local/nc.cfm

Duke University Transit

http://parking.duke.edu/buses_vans/bus_sched/
684-2218

Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA)

<http://data.durhamnc.gov/schedules.cfm>

224 North Hoover Road, Durham
683-DATA (3282)

GoTriangle.org Trip Planner

<http://www.gotriangle.org/>

485-RIDE (7433)

This search engine accesses all major Triangle transit services and delivers complete trip information from start to finish, including walking distance to bus stops and overall travel times. Also includes links to individual transit service sites.

Triangle Transit Authority

<http://www.rideTTA.org/>

549-9999

The Triangle Transit Authority begins in the Research Triangle Park and continues in a loop through northern Durham, Chapel Hill, and Southern Durham. Routes from the RTP terminal also serve RDU International Airport, Raleigh, and surrounding cities. Please call for specific route information.

Train Information

The train may be taken from Durham south to Charlotte and from Durham north to Boston. Durham's Amtrak station is across from the Mutual Insurance building at 400 West Chapel Hill Street. A train from Raleigh goes to Florida. For complete schedule and fare listings call **1-800-USA-RAIL** or visit Amtrak online at **<http://www.amtrak.com/>**.

Biking

Mountain biking is allowed in Duke Forest, NC State Forest, and some city parks. If you are interested in long distance touring, maps and information can be obtained at **http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/maps/maps_intro.html**.

Automobile Information

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

<http://www.ncdot.org/dmv/>

Although students can maintain residency outside of the state of North Carolina, spouses generally must become state residents (especially if you plan to work here). You'll have 30 days to get your North Carolina driver's license and license plates. You'll have to go to two separate places—one for the driver's license and one for the license plates. Below are some of the key things you should know, but please see the DMV site listed above for complete information.

Driver's License Offices

- 3825 South Roxboro Street, Suite 119, Durham
560-3378
- State Highway Patrol Station at 101 South Miami Boulevard, Durham
560-6896

Procedure

To get your license, you'll have to take a written test and a vision test. You'll also need Form 123 from your insurance company, which shows that you have liability insurance. (Most insurance companies that insure cars in North Carolina know about the requirement and will send you a copy of the form. Faxed copies also are okay.) You'll need to turn in your

former driver's license. Also, bring cash. Fees for driver's licenses vary depending on what type of license you are getting.

The written test for a regular driver's license is a 25-question, multiple-choice test. The questions can be very tricky, so we advise reading and studying the driver's education book (available on the DMV Web site) before you take the test. You can take the test at either of the DMV driver's license offices.

You can avoid waiting in line to take the tests by making an appointment in advance. You may make an appointment by calling either driver's license office. If you have an appointment, you can just walk into the office and take a seat in the "Appointments Only" chair in the testing area. You **MUST** have copies of all your documentation, including proof of insurance, before you can take the test.

License Plates

Northgate Shopping Mall
1058 West Club Boulevard, Durham
286-4908

Procedure

To get license plates, you must have the following:

- Car title, signed and notarized
- NC insurance company and policy number
- Mileage and bill of sale from the dealer
- Valid driver's license

If you co-own the car, the co-owner will have to sign forms saying you can register it in North Carolina. You must also come prepared to write a check. North Carolina charges a highway usage tax, which you must pay when you get your plates. The tax is a percentage (usually 3%) of the blue book value of the car, and it can be expensive.

Safety Inspection

North Carolina requires a safety inspection of all automobiles, which must be conducted within 10 days of receiving your license plates. Most repair shops can do the safety inspection—look for a sign in front of the station indicating which ones can inspect cars. Inspection takes about a half an hour.

Area Information

Utilities

Cable: Time Warner Cable

<http://www.timewarnercable.com/>

708 E. Club Boulevard, Durham

Customer Service: **595-4892**

Electric: Duke Energy Company

<http://www.duke-energy.com/>

800-777-9898

Payment Centers:

- 2000 Avondale Drive, Suite R, Durham
- 50010 Governors Village Drive, Chapel Hill

Duke Energy charges a deposit to set up a new account (unless you are a former customer of Duke Energy with a good payment history). Duke Energy will refund the deposit, plus interest, after you have been a customer for a year. Be warned though, Duke Energy may hold your deposit for a longer time if you make more than two late payments. Duke Energy recommends that you call to set up your service at least 48 hours in advance. Service may be requested either online or via telephone.

Garbage and Trash Collection

City of Durham

560-4185

Gas: PSNC Energy

<http://www.psnenergy.com/en/>

Customer Service: **877-776-2427**

Payment Centers:

- ABC Check Cashing
1209 University Drive
- Raleigh-Durham Check Cashiers
1122 Buchanan Boulevard

Call the customer service number to set up. (Apartments in Durham generally have electric heat and electric stoves.)

Recycling: Tidewater Fiber Corporation

Requests for recycling bins should be directed to the City of Durham call center, **560-1200**.

After receiving requests from the city, TFC will deliver a recycling bin to your residence.

Telephone: Verizon

<http://www22.verizon.com/>

Customer Service: **800-483-3000**

Verizon repair: **800-483-1000**

Call to set up phone service. Verizon charges ordering, installation, and, set-up fees for each line. In some cases a service person may need to visit your house. Verizon will charge local long distance rates to call both Chapel Hill and Raleigh from Durham (and vice versa); so shop around regarding long distance carriers.

Water: City Water & Sewer Department

<http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/wm/cbs.cfm>

101 City Hall Plaza, Durham

560-4411 or 560-1200

Water and sewage service is generally included with most apartment complexes. Some apartment complexes, however, will send a bill for water. You may have to pay water bills if you rent or buy a house. Water is never turned on or off by the company. Water bills are sent every two months.

Well and Septic

Durham County Health Department

560-7800

Local Newspapers

The Cary News

<http://www.carynews.com/>

212 E. Chatham Street, Cary

460-2600

Chapel Hill News

<http://www.chapelhillnews.com/>

932-2000

The Herald-Sun

<http://www.herald-sun.com/>

2828 Pickett Road, Durham

800-672-0061

419-6500

Independent Weekly

286-1972

The Independent is a free newspaper available at newsstand locations across the Triangle.

***The News & Observer* (Raleigh)**

<http://www.news-observer.com/>

829-4500

Triangle Business Journal

<http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/>

Chambers of Commerce and Visitors Bureaus

Durham Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.durhamchamber.org/>
300 W. Morgan Street, Suite 1400, Durham
682-2133

Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

<http://www.durham-nc.com/>
101 E. Morgan Street, Durham
800-446-8604 or 687-0288

Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.carolinachamber.org/>
104 South Estes Drive
967-7075

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau

<http://www.chocvb.org/>
501 W. Franklin Street, Suite 104, Chapel Hill
888-968-2060

Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau

<http://www.visitraleigh.com/>
421 Fayetteville Street
Mall Suite 1505, Raleigh
800-849-8499 or 834-5900

Local Universities

Elon University

<http://www.elon.edu/>

North Carolina Central University

<http://www.nccu.edu/>

North Carolina State University

<http://www.ncsu.edu/>

Shaw University

<http://www.shawuniversity.edu/>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<http://www.unc.edu/>

Wake Forest University

<http://www.wakeforest.edu/>

Information about Schools

All Schools

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/>

Durham Public Schools

<http://www.dpsnc.net/>

Orange County (Chapel Hill) Public Schools

<http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/>

Local Sports

Durham Bulls

<http://www.durhambulls.com/>

Carolina Hurricanes

<http://www.carolinahurricanes.com/>

Useful Web sites

You can find information about the Triangle area (Durham, Research Triangle Park, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh) at these helpful locations on the Internet.

<http://www.triangle.citysearch.com/>

Lots of great information on the Triangle

<http://www.trianglesource.com/>

Listings of Triangle-area events, movies, restaurants, and entertainment venues

<http://www.yelp.com/>

An interesting site with user-created reviews of businesses, service providers, and entertainment venues

The Surrounding Areas

North Carolina is divided into three geographic areas: the coast, the piedmont, and the mountains. Research Triangle Park is also a significant part of North Carolina and the Triangle area. While you are here in Durham you will have opportunities to visit the mountains as well as the beaches of North Carolina. Either location is about two hours away; both are well worth the trip.

Research Triangle Park

The 7,000-acre Research Triangle Park (RTP), located between Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, is the largest research park in the United States and is home to over 140 organizations. RTP has around 45,000 full-time employees entering the Park each day. Recognized internationally as a center for cutting-edge research and development, the Park is owned and developed by the private, not-for-profit Research Triangle Foundation. The Research Triangle itself is named for the triangle formed by the area's three universities: Duke University in Durham, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

The Beaches of North Carolina

The Northern Coast—The Outer Banks show you a side of the Carolina beaches that make you fall in love with the land. While here you must see the lighthouses, Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, and Hatteras Island. For more information call **252-473-2138** or **800-446-6262**.

Wrightsville Beach—Wrightsville Beach is the closest beach to Durham, about a 2 hour drive. Getting there is as simple as jumping on 40 East until it ends and then following the signs to Wrightsville. In the off season you can get a weekend getaway very cheaply. It is great to be on the coast for a few days and come back to school refreshed.

For more information on the *Cape Fear Coast* call **800-222-4757** or **341-4030**. They will provide you with information on coastal getaways, golfing, and fishing.

Southern Beaches—Sunset Beach is a romantic, wide, homey beach. This place is quiet and very much the place for families and young couples trying to get away. Action here is more to the tune of kite flying and surfing. A favorite venture on this beach is walking to the southernmost point when the tide is low and walking over to its tiny southern neighbor, Bird Island.

Ocean Isle stretches about eight uncrowded miles and is known for its fishing. There is a great coastal museum here.

The Mountains

The Blue Ridge Mountain Range is one of the most scenic areas in America. There are frequent overlooks that give breathtaking panoramic views. Spring and fall are the most amazing times of year to visit. Mountain laurel, azaleas, and rhododendron are in abundance in early spring, providing pleasure to the eye. Mid-October is usually the peak time for fall color.

“Must See” places in the mountains include:

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail

828-254-3708

A wilderness trail that is intended for foot travel. Shelters are provided every 8–12 miles.

Blue Ridge Parkway

828-298-0398

Plenty of camping and, for the not-so-rustic, plenty of lodges

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

423-436-1200

Nantahala National Forest

828-257-4200

Over 500,000 acres of family camping, primitive camping, group camping, motorboating, bridal trails, fishing, nature hiking, and swimming

Asheville

800-257-1300

Plenty of golfing and art to be seen; home of the historic Biltmore Estate

Helpful Hiking and Camping Sites

Office of Environmental Education Hiking Trails List

<http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/eecenters/healthcenters.htm>

KOA Campgrounds

<http://www.koa.com/>