



# 101

## Charlotte's got a lot.

### THINGS TO DO IN CHARLOTTE

1. Experience the world's most unique outdoor recreation and environmental learning experience at the **U.S. National Whitewater Center**. Share over 300 acres of woodlands along the Catawba River with Olympic-caliber athletes, weekend warriors and those looking for high adventure. [www.usnwc.org](http://www.usnwc.org)
2. Experience the best of Broadway musicals with the **NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Stanford Broadway Lights Series**. The upcoming season includes such smash hits as *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and *The Color Purple*. [www.blumenthalcenter.org](http://www.blumenthalcenter.org)
3. The **Billy Graham Library** combines iconic memorabilia and multimedia technology to transport visitors into the life and faith of the beloved evangelist. A country kitchen and replica of Graham's boyhood home complete this not-to-be-missed experience. [www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org)
4. Experience the nation's most comprehensive collection of contemporary studio craft at the **Mint Museum of Craft + Design**, located in Center City. Collections run the gamut and include ceramics, jewelry, metal, glass, and more. [www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)
5. Once the location of the first branch of the United States Mint, the **Mint Museum of Art** is a rich and diverse resource with noted collections of American and pre-Columbian art, American and European ceramics, and contemporary art and photography. [www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)
6. Don't miss the excitement of the **NBA Charlotte Bobcats** as they host the league's brightest stars at Time Warner Cable Arena. [www.bobcats.com](http://www.bobcats.com)
7. Join more than 500,000 people from all over the United States who visit **Discovery Place** each year, one of the top hands-on science centers in the nation and home to *The Charlotte Observer* IMAX® Dome Theatre. [www.discoveryplace.org](http://www.discoveryplace.org)
8. The **NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race** is a spring ritual of speed and daring resulting in yearly additions to the book of NASCAR lore. Catch the excitement as motorsports history is written at over 180 mph each May. [www.lowesmotorspeedway.com](http://www.lowesmotorspeedway.com)
9. Reflecting an original approach to education, learning and the arts, **ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center** is a 106,000 sq-ft facility that serves as an unprecedented resource for families. Programs create a synergy between educational drama experiences and the critical skills of reading unlike any in the country. [www.imaginon.org](http://www.imaginon.org)
10. For over half a century, **Children's Theatre of Charlotte** has been opening young minds to the wonders of live theatre, creating what one local critic called "the most technically imaginative and resourceful theatre productions in the region." [www.ctcharlotte.org](http://www.ctcharlotte.org)
11. Fore! 2009 will mark the seventh year of the **Wachovia Championship**. Hosted at Charlotte's Quail Hollow Club the tournament is recognized by the national and international golf community as one of the top events on the PGA Tour. Don't miss a swing each May. [www.wachoviachampionship.com](http://www.wachoviachampionship.com)
12. Hair-raising rides, the wettest water park, the most sizzling stage shows, and tons of other cool stuff everyone can enjoy can be found at **Carowinds**. The park offers guests more than 108 acres of ultimate entertainment for the entire family including Boomerang Bay and Nickelodeon Central. Ride, spin, twirl and hug the day away with your favorite characters from Nickelodeon TV shows. [www.carowinds.com](http://www.carowinds.com)
13. As the chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup heats up, racing action returns to Lowe's Motor Speedway as it hosts the **Bank of America 500** in October. The fifth race out of the final ten for the Sprint Championship, the Bank of America 500 promises high-speed action and excitement. [www.lowesmotorspeedway.com](http://www.lowesmotorspeedway.com)
14. Catch the **NFL Carolina Panthers** as they compete at Bank of America Stadium each fall. Home games include battles with the Chicago Bears and the Atlanta Falcons. [www.panthers.com](http://www.panthers.com)
15. Visit **Levine Museum of the New South**, an interactive history museum, and experience the nation's most comprehensive interpretation of post-Civil War southern society with *Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers*, named one of the best exhibitions in the Southeast by the Southeastern Museums Conference Curators' Committee. [www.museumofthenewsouth.org](http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org)
16. Shop 'til you drop at **Concord Mills**, one of the state's leading tourist attractions. An amazing themed complex, Concord Mills offers 200 stores, restaurants and entertainment venues including a 24-screen AMC Theatres, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and NASCAR SpeedPark. [www.concordmills.com](http://www.concordmills.com)
17. Imagine an arts and music festival highlighting emerging local artists, children's area, music stages and fun for the entire family! **Art & Soul of South End** showcases the Original Block Party, Avenue of the Arts, the Children's Arts Festival and Battle of the Bands. [www.artandsoulofsouthend.com](http://www.artandsoulofsouthend.com)
18. If you love flowers, you're not going to want to miss this. Named one of the nation's "20 Great Gardens" in HGTV's popular book, *Flower Gardening*, **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden** features 110 acres of themed gardens, a dozen sparkling fountains, a spectacular Visitor Pavilion, a new Orchid Conservatory and nine distinctly themed gardens. [www.dsbgo.org](http://www.dsbgo.org)
19. Lowe's Motor Speedway, home of NASCAR's only 600-mile race, hosts the **Coca-Cola 600** each May, a week after the NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race. [www.lowesmotorspeedway.com](http://www.lowesmotorspeedway.com)
20. Enjoy America's favorite pastime at Knights Stadium. Catch the **Charlotte Knights**, Chicago White Sox affiliate, compete with the best teams of AAA minor-league baseball. [www.charlotteknights.com](http://www.charlotteknights.com)
21. Nationally-acclaimed conductors Christof Perick and Albert-George Schram lead the **Charlotte Symphony Orchestra** in its popular Classics and Pops series. The engaging Pops series brings together the Charlotte Symphony with special guests such as The Pointer Sisters and Kenny Rogers each season. [www.charlottesymphony.org](http://www.charlottesymphony.org)
22. Along with the holidays, December brings with it the highly anticipated arrival of college bowl games. And Charlotte's been home to a biggie – the **Meineke Car Care Bowl**. Pitting a Big East rival against an ACC challenger, the game kicks off each December at Bank of America Stadium. [www.meinekecarcarebowl.com](http://www.meinekecarcarebowl.com)
23. Don't miss the cuts, scrapes and power plays of minor league hockey! The **ECHL Charlotte Checkers** take the ice each October through April at the Time Warner Cable Arena. [www.gocheckers.com](http://www.gocheckers.com)
24. Visit the **Afro-American Cultural Center (AACC)**. Through comprehensive programs and presentations in the visual arts, performing arts and through innovative educational programs, the AACC preserves, promotes, and presents African-American culture to the nation. [www.aacc-charlotte.org](http://www.aacc-charlotte.org)
25. The Lowes Foods **Taste of Charlotte** food festival draws more than 150,000 people to Center City Charlotte each June to experience a wide array of family activities, live music and fantastic food from the area's hottest restaurants. [www.tasteofcharlotte.com](http://www.tasteofcharlotte.com)
26. Explore the **Charlotte Museum of History** and the Hezekiah Alexander home site for a glimpse of living history. Docents, dressed in period attire, guide guests through exhibits chronicling the 18th - 20th centuries. [www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)
27. Ready for a night on the town? Head over to the **Visulite Theatre** for great live music or experience Charlotte's oldest live music venue, the **Double Door Inn**. [www.visulite.com](http://www.visulite.com), [www.doubledoorinn.com](http://www.doubledoorinn.com)
28. Step inside **Charlotte Observer IMAX® Dome Theatre** at Discovery Place. The giant-screen theatre surrounds you with larger-than-life images and amazing sound while providing a new look at the world in which we live. [www.discoveryplace.org](http://www.discoveryplace.org)
29. **Carolina Raptor Center** is dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey through public education and the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned raptors. Tour Carolina Raptor Center's bird hospital and get a sneak peek at what happens behind the scenes, from patients' initial exam to strengthening their wings in outdoor flight cages. [www.carolinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org)
30. **NoDa**, Charlotte's fringe art neighborhood, hosts a free Gallery Crawl every first and third Friday of the month. Browse the area's swanky galleries, enjoy a bite to eat and relax to smooth music played by local street musicians. [www.noda.org](http://www.noda.org)
31. The **North Carolina Dance Theatre** will reach new heights during the 2008 season with time-honored ballets like *Peter and the Wolf* and the *Nutcracker*. [www.ncdance.org](http://www.ncdance.org)
32. Rock out with your favorite musical performers at **Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre**, Charlotte's only multi-million dollar, open-air music venue. Verizon attracts the nation's hottest stars for rocking shows all out under the stars. [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com)
33. Visit the **Charlotte Nature Museum**, an urban science center that exhibits the animals and plants of the Piedmont including an ever-changing Butterfly Garden. [www.discoveryplace.org](http://www.discoveryplace.org)
34. Find inspiration with **NarroWay Productions**. NarroWay offers dynamic Christian musicals and dinner theatre ranging from World War II dramas to Christmas pageants to Western whodunits. [www.narroway.net](http://www.narroway.net)
35. **The Light Factory** is a nonprofit arts center dedicated to exhibition and education programs promoting the power of photography and film. The Light Factory offers classes throughout the year in SLR and digital photography and filmmaking. [www.lightfactory.org](http://www.lightfactory.org)
36. Shop with class and sophistication at **SouthPark Mall**. Stores include Belk, Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus and cult favorites like Anthropologie, Burberry, Kate Spade and Louis Vuitton. [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com)
37. **Reed Gold Mine** is the site of the first documented gold find in the United States (1799). Today, it features exhibits on gold, the geology of gold, mining technology, and equipment. Portions of underground tunnels at this NC Historic site have been restored for guided tours. Come pan for gold in the same creek that led to America's first gold rush. [www.reedmine.com](http://www.reedmine.com)
38. Relax and enjoy the serenity of **Wing Haven**, a unique part of Charlotte since its creation in 1927. The gardens and bird sanctuary, enclosed on all sides by brick walls, encompass three acres in the heart of a quiet residential neighborhood. [www.winghavengardens.com](http://www.winghavengardens.com)
39. Get swept away in a southern winter wonderland. **Holidays in the City** is a month-long celebration of the holidays highlighting the city's rich traditions and culture in countless events throughout Center City Charlotte. [www.holidaysinthecity.org](http://www.holidaysinthecity.org)
40. Experience the Charlotte Antique & Collectibles show monthly at the **Metrolina Expo Trade Center**. Twice a year (April & November) the "Antiques Spectacular," renowned as one of the largest events of its kind, anywhere features over 2,000 dealers from all over the world, offering an array of quality antiques and collectible items. [www.dmgantiqueshow.com/metrolina](http://www.dmgantiqueshow.com/metrolina)
41. Visit Charlotte's **Historic South End** neighborhood. With its roots in the 1850's, Historic South End has become a nexus for creative expression and a vibrant retail and restaurant district. [www.historicsouthend.com](http://www.historicsouthend.com)
42. Travel back to the 19th century at **Latta Plantation and Nature Preserve**. Once a thriving cotton plantation, Latta Plantation is now a living history farm. Experience what life was like for yeoman farmers and slaves in the North Carolina back-country during the 19th century. Visit the Latta Nature Preserve for an unspoiled look at the natural beauty of the Carolinas. [www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org)
43. Nestled at the gateway of the Yadkin Valley, **Childress Vineyards** is quickly becoming recognized as North Carolina's signature winery. Richard Childress brings a passion for fine wine as genuine as his passion for auto racing. Discover a taste of the old world in the heart of the piedmont. [www.childressvineyards.com](http://www.childressvineyards.com)
44. Take a tour of Charlotte's public artworks. The **Arts & Science Council of Charlotte** views public art as integral to a community's fabric by recognizing the potential of art to create livable cities and enrich the spirit and pride of its citizens. Stop into the Visitor Info Center for a guide to Center City's public artworks. [www.artsandscience.org](http://www.artsandscience.org)
45. Take the family to **NASCAR SpeedPark** and renew sibling rivalry on five scaled race tracks. The premier track at NASCAR SpeedPark, Mini-Motor Speedway, features a quarter mile oval and 5/8 scale SPRINT Cup style cars. Miniature golf is also available. [www.nascarspeedpark.com](http://www.nascarspeedpark.com)
46. Celebrate spring in the Piedmont countryside with the prestigious **Queen's Cup Steeplechase**, the Charlotte area's only horse racing event. Sundress-clad ladies and seer-sucker-sporting gentlemen can be found enjoying the festivities during the event's six races. [www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org)



47. **Victory Lane Indoor Karting Center** offers a 1/3 mile European-style road course and the very best of competition karting. Their competition karts are made in Italy by SODI Kart. Karts and average speeds of 35 mph. [www.377fast.com](http://www.377fast.com)

48. The **Richard Petty Driving Experience** (RPDE) opened its doors in 1994 and today has emerged as the premier motorsports entertainment company in the industry. Participants can ride shotgun with a professional driver or train and get behind the wheel themselves, racing at speeds of over 160mph. [www.1800bepetty.com](http://www.1800bepetty.com)

49. Visit the house that *The Intimidator* built. **Dale Earnhardt, Inc.**, owning the teams of NASCAR Sprint Cup drivers Mark Martin and Martin Truex, Jr., opens its showroom and retail store to the public throughout the week. [www.dalearnhardtinc.com](http://www.dalearnhardtinc.com)

50. At the **Hendrick Motorsports** racing complex fans can view the race shops of Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson or visit **Hendrick Motorsports Museum**. The 15,000 square-foot museum and souvenir shop showcase almost two decades of HMS racing. [www.hendrickmotorsports.com](http://www.hendrickmotorsports.com)

51. Take a walking tour through Charlotte's historic **Fourth Ward** neighborhood and delight in the architecture of homes dating back to the 1800's appropriately called the "Grand Old Ladies." Stop into the Visitor Info Center for a guide. [www.charlottesgotalot.com](http://www.charlottesgotalot.com)

52. **Historic Brattonville**, in nearby McConnells, SC, is a 775-acre living history village that includes a Revolutionary War battlefield site. The site features 29 historic structures, which may be toured and are also used during living history programs where docents (costumed-interpreters) "relive the past" by demonstrating a variety of themed days. [www.chmuseums.org](http://www.chmuseums.org)

53. Travel a few miles north to the **Bob Timberlake Gallery**. Featuring fine art reproductions, finely crafted furniture inspired by 18th-century artisans, decorative accessories, and even menswear, everything that bears the Bob Timberlake name embodies style and comfort. [www.bobtimberlake.com](http://www.bobtimberlake.com)

54. The **Lazy 5 Ranch** is a privately owned exotic animal drive thru park that offers a 3.5 mile safari through the gently sloping pasturelands of Piedmont, North Carolina. While visiting at the Lazy 5 Ranch you will have the opportunity to view over 750 animals from six different continents. [www.lazyfiveranch.com](http://www.lazyfiveranch.com)

55. Indulge in the ultimate destination spa experience at **The Spa at Ballantyne Resort**. The award-winning, full-service spa features a variety of natural and organic based treatments focusing on a taste of North Carolina through indigenous ingredients and rituals. [www.spaballantyne.com](http://www.spaballantyne.com)

56. Beat the heat...or cold at **Ray's Splash Planet**, a 29,000 square foot indoor water park and fitness facility. The water park is loaded with fun features: a double-figure eight waterslide, water squitters, a lazy river, and tumble buckets. [www.raysplashplanet.com](http://www.raysplashplanet.com)

57. Visitors to **Cricket Arena** experience a true feeling of a 1950's-style building. The arena houses a diverse range of entertainment events for all ages. Top events and performances at Cricket Arena have included Elvis and Prince. [www.cricketarenacharlotte.com](http://www.cricketarenacharlotte.com)

58. Southern Shows, Inc. presents the **Southern Christmas Show** and **Southern Spring Home & Garden Show** each November and March. [www.southernshows.com](http://www.southernshows.com)

59. "Step" into town each March to join 100,000 fans during the **CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament**. When the final buzzer sounds the streets come alive. Don't miss the Ford Fan Experience featuring celebrity chefs, comedians, talent showcases, recording artists, and so much more. [www.theciaa.com](http://www.theciaa.com)

60. Celebrate the May races during **Food Lion Speed Street**. The 600 Festival transforms the streets of Charlotte into a showcase of motorsports with non-stop entertainment, appearances by top Sprint Cup Drivers, NASCAR show cars and simulators and fun for all ages. [www.600festival.com](http://www.600festival.com)

61. Charlotte's collection of exquisitely manicured greens on its expertly sculpted courses come together to produce one of the most unique **golfing experiences**. For a complete list of the area's 42 public golf courses go to [www.golfcharlotte.com](http://www.golfcharlotte.com).

62. Outdoor enthusiasts are sure to find the "perfect spot" among the over 175 parks operated by the **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Parks & Recreation Department**. Enjoy a day of hiking, playing, or championship Frisbee golf. [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

63. Visit **Plaza-Midwood**, Charlotte's most diverse streetcar-era neighborhood. Its earliest avenues were plotted in 1903 and its newest date from after the Second World War. Buildings range from turn-of-the-century factories and blue collar housing to the city's most prestigious country club and thriving nightspots. [www.plazamidwood.org](http://www.plazamidwood.org)

64. Practice your swing at the **Dana Rader Golf School**. Located at the Ballantyne Golf Resort, the Dana Rader Golf School was named to *Golf Magazine's* prestigious "Top 25 Golf Schools" and features a nationally acclaimed team of PGA and LPGA instructors. [www.danarader.com](http://www.danarader.com)

65. Take a cultural excursion into learning at the **Museum of York County**. Permanent exhibitions include more than 200 full-mounted African animals as well as an outstanding collection of African artifacts. [www.chmuseums.org](http://www.chmuseums.org)

66. Experience live music, an art gallery, and a latte at **The Evening Muse**. The Muse features original artists in a wide variety of genres. Or cross the street to take in more great live music at the **Neighborhood Theatre**. Also hosting an eclectic mix of artists, plus a regular stop for many well-known legends. [www.theeveningmuse.com](http://www.theeveningmuse.com), [www.neighborhoodtheatre.com](http://www.neighborhoodtheatre.com)

67. Held each October since 1991, the Public Library of Charlotte's award winning **Novello Festival of Reading** is a celebration of reading and books including presentations by best selling authors, a street festival and other reading-related activities. [www.novellofestival.net](http://www.novellofestival.net)

68. The **UNC Charlotte 49ers** are sure to grab your "A10tion" as part of the Atlantic 10 Conference. With the James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center and Dale F. Halton Arena serving as the centerpiece, the 49ers boast some of the best collegiate sports teams and facilities in the nation. [www.charlotte49ers.com](http://www.charlotte49ers.com)

69. Savor the flavor of **Shelton Vineyards**, named to *The Wine Report's* list of "50 Forbidden Wines." The vineyard offers tours and delicious wines, including the award winning 2003 Shelton Vineyards Riesling. [www.sheltonvineyards.com](http://www.sheltonvineyards.com)

70. **Ovens Auditorium** hosts numerous traveling Broadway musicals, national touring comedy acts and celebrity musicians. Surrounded by its trademark fountains and rose gardens, Ovens Auditorium is truly among the finest of Charlotte's landmarks. [www.ovensauditorium.com](http://www.ovensauditorium.com)

71. Shop at new South Charlotte open-air developments such as **Blakeney** and **Morrison** featuring high end boutiques peppered with designer labels or other coveted luxury goods only found this side of Manhattan. [www.charlottesgotalot.com](http://www.charlottesgotalot.com)

72. Let your imagination soar at the **Carolinas Aviation Museum**. Relive the country's proudest moments with exhibits featuring aircraft from war and peacetime. [www.carolinasaviation.org](http://www.carolinasaviation.org)

73. The walls of the **Sam Bass Gallery of Motorsports Art**, located less than a lap away from Lowe's Motor Speedway's high-banked oval, are alive with vivid recollections of racing's most exciting and endearing events. [www.sambass.com](http://www.sambass.com)

74. Explore **Lake Norman** and enjoy the area's best water recreation. Boating, swimming, and waterskiing are all possibilities, but the area also offers unique shops and restaurants you won't want to miss. [www.visitlakenorman.org](http://www.visitlakenorman.org)



75. Experience north Charlotte's retail boom at **Northlake Mall**. The two-level, enclosed mall features 150 stores, restaurants and a 14-screen AMC Theatres megaplex. Steeped in rich artistic and commercial heritage, the architectural design evokes southern warmth infused with a distinctly Charlotte spirit. [www.shopnorthlake.com](http://www.shopnorthlake.com)

76. Central Piedmont Community College has hosted an annual **Spring Literary Festival** each year for the past 15 years. With writers and visual artists ranging from novelists to landscape painters to international poets and multicultural storytellers, CPCC brings a stunning array of talent to Charlotte. [www.cpcc.edu](http://www.cpcc.edu)

77. Relax on **The Green**, Center City Charlotte's outdoor, novella-themed park, located across the street from the Charlotte Convention Center. Upscale restaurants and outdoor entertainment are all footsteps away. [www.thegreenuptown.com](http://www.thegreenuptown.com)

78. Cast a line or hunt for bargains at **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World**, the largest supplier of outdoor recreational products in the world, located at Concord Mills Mall. [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)

79. Sit back and enjoy the ride or suit up, buckle in and drive an actual Sprint Cup car for eight heart pounding laps around the speedway at the **Jeff Gordon Racing School**. The speed and g-forces alone make it a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you will never forget. [www.jeffgordonracingschool.com](http://www.jeffgordonracingschool.com)

80. Party at Dale Earnhardt, Jr.'s **Whisky River** in EpiCentre. This hotspot is "country chic" and touts a unique blend of rock and country music, VIP tables, mechanical bull riding, and live bands. [www.whiskyrivercharlotte.com](http://www.whiskyrivercharlotte.com)

81. Experience the collection of nationally renowned public artworks that adorn the **Charlotte Convention Center**, or attend a variety of tradeshow and conventions open to the public, including the Charlotte International Car Show and Mid Atlantic Boat Show. [www.charlotteconventionctr.com](http://www.charlotteconventionctr.com)

82. Celebrate nature's splendor each spring as the Mint Museums host **Charlotte's Annual Home & Garden Tour**. The tour features a splendid array of elegant homes and spectacular gardens located in some of Charlotte's most beautiful neighborhoods. [www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)

83. **Phillip's Place**, located in Charlotte's South Park neighborhood, offers a main street stroll for a wide variety of elegant gift boutiques, entertainment, and cuisine, including Upstream for eclectic seafood dining. [www.phillipsplace.info](http://www.phillipsplace.info)

84. Experience NASCAR racing from a unique perspective through **PIT Crew U** and **5 OFF 5 ON**, the experimental education and practice, placement, and coaching divisions of PIT Instruction & Training. While completion of the programs doesn't guarantee "playing time" at the track, it gets you up close and personal with the fastest 15 seconds in the sport. [www.5off5on.com](http://www.5off5on.com)

85. View the black No. 3 GM Chevrolet driven by the late Dale Earnhardt Sr. at the **Richard Childress Racing Museum**. In all, 47 vehicles are on display in the museum including all six of the No. 3 special paint scheme cars driven by Earnhardt in The Winston from 1995-2000. [www.rcrracing.com](http://www.rcrracing.com)

86. Paint the town red at Center City's newest entertainment destination, **EpiCentre**. A bevy of retailers, restaurants, nightlife, and more fill the open-air corridors including the 25,000 square foot event venue called Pavilion, which hosts the "EpiCentre @ 5" summer concert music series. [www.pavilionatepicentre.com](http://www.pavilionatepicentre.com)

87. Charlotte is called the **city of frescoes**. Rare in the U.S., Charlotte is home to several sites painted by Ben Long, a NC native. Frescoes adorn the lobby of the Bank of America Corporate Center, The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Transamerica Square. [www.artsandscience.org](http://www.artsandscience.org)

88. Bravo! **Opera Carolina** is the largest professional opera company in the Carolinas and entertains the region through the presentation of excellent Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre and Education & Outreach Programs. [www.operacarolina.org](http://www.operacarolina.org)

89. Giddy up! Take a horseback ride at **Latta Equestrian Center**. Guided trail rides and individual and group riding lessons are available. [www.charmeck.org](http://www.charmeck.org)

90. At Central Piedmont Community College's **Dale F. Halton Theater** education meets entertainment. Catch theatre, music and dance productions on a stage worthy of the world's great artists. [www.halton.cpcc.edu](http://www.halton.cpcc.edu)

91. Celebrate the state's heritage of motorsports at the **NC Auto Racing Hall of Fame**. Located in Mooresville, a.k.a. "Race City USA," the Hall of Fame features various exhibits spanning all forms of motorsports present in North Carolina. [www.ncarhof.com](http://www.ncarhof.com)

92. If you're a creative spirit you won't want to miss the **Hart Witzten Gallery**. Part gallery, live performance venue, movie theater and artist studio, the Hart Witzten Gallery, located in the NoDa fringe arts neighborhood, exhibits cutting edge visual and performing arts. [www.hartwitzengallery.com](http://www.hartwitzengallery.com)

93. Experience a behind-the-scenes look at NASCAR with **Lowe's Motor Speedway's Over the Wall Tour**, the only tour of its kind in the country to be offered at a NASCAR track. [www.lowesmotorspeedway.com](http://www.lowesmotorspeedway.com)

94. Take in the breathtaking elegance of three historic residences at the **Van Landingham Estate**, the **Morehead Inn**, or the **Duke Mansion**, which all now serve as special event venues and bed & breakfasts. [www.vanlandinghamestate.com](http://www.vanlandinghamestate.com), [www.moreheadinn.com](http://www.moreheadinn.com), [www.dukemansion.com](http://www.dukemansion.com)

95. Board the Catawba Queen, a replica of a Mississippi River Paddle Wheeler or the Lady of the Lake at **Queen's Landing**, to watch a romantic sunset or enjoy a dinner cruise on Lake Norman. Got a boat of your own? Tie up at the Floating Dock Bar and cool off with an ice cold beverage. [www.queenslanding.com](http://www.queenslanding.com)

96. Visit the **McColl Center for Visual Art**. The Center supports an active artist in residence program and their works can be viewed by the public. The Center also offers lectures and artists forums. [www.mccollcenter.org](http://www.mccollcenter.org)

97. Explore the **Duke Power Energy Explorium**, located at McGuire Nuclear Station. The Energy Explorium features hands-on energy information exhibits, a Lake Norman movie, wildflower garden and one mile nature trail. [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com)

98. Wind your way through **Ribbon Walk**, a 137-acre botanical forest and environmental education center featuring four walking trails, three large ponds, and free flowing creeks. [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

99. Hop aboard the **LYNX Blue Line** light rail or the Charlotte Trolley. Stop off in Charlotte's Historic South End neighborhood for boutique browsing and family-friendly dining or journey on to Center City for museums, green spaces, and more. [www.charmeck.org](http://www.charmeck.org), [www.charlottetrolley.org](http://www.charlottetrolley.org)

100. Visit the Southeast's most complete collection of mammals at the **Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium** in Gastonia. The 18th Century Backcountry Farm and Catawba Indian Village complete the educational journey. [www.schielemuseum.org](http://www.schielemuseum.org)

101. Visit the site of what was once Southern Railway Company's largest steam locomotive repair facility at the **NC Transportation Museum**. The site contains an authentic train depot, antique automobiles, and a 37 stall roundhouse with 25 locomotives and other exhibit areas. [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)



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