



Great Things about Durham

Durham has always been and continues to be a creative and entrepreneurial community where diverse and passionate people come together to shape a better world. Here are some of the greatest things about Durham.

DURHAM

Where great things happen.

Durham Is Really A Sight To See.

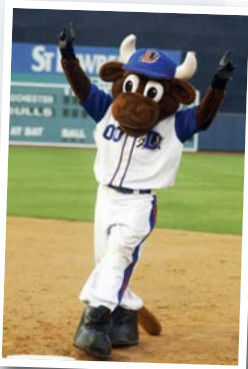
Whether you're into history or sports, art or science, architecture or African-American heritage, Durham has some places that you won't want to miss. Here are just a few of the things worth seeing in Durham.

- Three State Historic Sites
- Revitalized Historic Downtown
- Duke Chapel and Sarah P. Duke Gardens
- DPAC and Carolina Theatre
- Hayti Heritage Center
- Museum of Life + Science
- Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University and NC Central University Art Museum
- Patterson's Mill Country Store
- West Point on the Eno City Park

Durham Really Knows A Good Sport When It Sees One.

Baseball, golf, football, track and field, oh, and basketball, to name a few. When it comes to sports, Durham is home base. Here are just a few of Durham's all-stars.

- Carolina Godiva Track Club
- Crystal Downs Polo
- Duke University Blue Devils
- Durham Bulls Triple-A Baseball
- Durham Striders
- NC Amateur Sports Association
- NC Central University Eagles
- USA Baseball
- Triangle Curling & Fencing Clubs



Durham Blossoms With Natural Wonders All Year 'Round.

From state parks and recreation areas to formal gardens and butterfly houses, Durham has some phenomenal places to see.

- American Tobacco Trail
- Duke Forest
- Eno River State Park and West Point on the Eno
- Horton Grove Preserve
- Lake Michie Recreation Area
- Leigh Farm Park
- Little River Regional Park and Natural Area
- Magic Wings Butterfly House
- Rollingview State Recreation Area at Falls Lake
- Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Durham Likes to Kid Around.

With more than 50 organizations engaged in delivering dozens of programs to support, engage, and enrich the lives of Durham's youth, it's no wonder Durham has amassed these and other accolades.

- 100 Best Communities for Young People
- One of the Top 20 Places to Educate Your Child
- #3 Best Small City for Relocating Families
- Two-time National Magnet School of Excellence award
- 4 high schools in the top 4% of Academically Rigorous High Schools in the nation
- Three "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform
- Most high school basketball titles in NC
- Nation's best statewide organization for health and physical activity
- #1 college graduation rate for national tech-focused MSAs
- #8 most fun city in NC



Durham Serves Up Great Food.

Durham is home to a chef-driven food scene with dozens of restaurants that have received national acclaim and media attention from the likes of Southern Living, The New York Times, Food and Wine, Bon Appétit, Esquire, and Gourmet.

- Tastiest Town in the South
- One of the top 100 restaurants in the nation
- Dozens of nationally or regionally recognized restaurants
- America's Foodiest Small Town
- #1 Coffee Roaster in the U.S.
- Chefs acclaimed for farm-to-table and sustainable agriculture
- 5th best vegetarian-friendly minor league ballpark
- One of the healthiest diets in America
- One of the best hotel chefs in America
- #2 best food city for groups
- Home to numerous James Beard Semi-finalists



Durham Is Home To More Than 47 Annual Festivals.

Durham puts on major festivals all year. Here are 15 of Durham's Signature Annual Events with high recognition nationally or significant out-of-state and in-state visitor appeal.

- ACC Baseball Championship
- American Dance Festival
- Art of Cool Jazz Festival
- Bennett Place Civil War Surrender Re-enactments
- Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival
- Bull Durham Blues Festival
- The Doughman Quadrathalon
- Durham Arts Council's CenterFest
- Durham Art Walk Spring/Holiday Markets
- Festival for the Eno
- Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
- Moogfest
- Native American Powwow
- NC Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- NC Comicon & Comiquet Film Festival
- NC Pride Parade and Festival
- SunTrust Broadway Series at DPAC
- World Beer Festival



Durham Has Its Own Place In History.

If you were a history professor, you'd have a field day here. The fact is, Durham has been a part of some pretty amazing events over the years and you can experience them firsthand. Here are a few historical places.

- Bennett Place State Historic Site
- Black Wall Street/Historic Parrish St.
- NC Civil War Trail
- Duke Chapel and Duke University Campus
- Duke Homestead State Historic Site & Tobacco Museum
- Hayti Heritage Center
- Historic Downtown, Brightleaf, and Golden Belt Districts on the National Register of Historic Places
- Historic Stagville
- NC Central University
- Patterson's Mill Country Store
- American Tobacco Historic District
- Durham History Hub (Museum of Durham History)



Durham Has A Rich African-American Heritage.

Durham African Americans have made tremendous contributions to the state and the nation, from pioneering the Piedmont Blues to heading the U.S. Olympic Committee. Here are a few of the things Durham's African-American citizens have accomplished over the years.

- Largest black-owned financial institution
- One of the nation's strongest African-American owned and managed banks
- 1st NC Civil Rights sit-ins to protest segregation
- 2nd black library in NC
- 1st publicly supported liberal arts college for African Americans
- Home of the South's 1st interracial basketball game
- Piedmont Blues style of music
- Architectural design of Duke University
- Basketball fast break/zone press innovations
- One of the first autonomous religious congregations



Durham Has Been Very Inventive.

Over the years, Durham has spawned some pretty remarkable ideas. From headache powders to bar code scanners, and from research parks to Astroturf, Durham has led the way.

- 3-D ultrasound
- Alzheimer gene breakthrough
- Astroturf
- AZT development
- Barcode reader
- BC Headache Powders
- Childproof caps on medicine bottles
- Ctrl-Alt-Delete computer command
- Digital cellular telephone
- On-board plane wind shear warning

Durham Is Big Into Experimentation.

Durham is home to a number of museums and scientific organizations that are solving some of the world's problems. Here are just a few of those organizations.

- Duke University Lemur Center
- Duke Hyperbaric Center & Phytotron
- Hill Demonstration Forest
- Museum of Life + Science
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- NC Biotechnology Center
- RTI International
- Rhine Research Center
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Durham Is Transforming Healthcare.

For over 40 years, Durham has been leading the way in medical breakthroughs that make life a little easier. Some amazing things have happened here that make Durham the City of Medicine, USA.

- #1 fitness vacation facility and one of the top 10 healthiest diets
- #1 best hospital in North Carolina
- #4 best medical school for geriatrics
- #5 best medical school for internal medicine
- #6 best medical school for research
- #6 metro for pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing
- #6 best medical school for AIDS treatment
- #9 best medical school for family medicine and women's health
- #9 best hospital in the nation
- 46% of all biotechnology firms in NC



Durham is Home to A Lot of Acclaim.

Durham is the pinnacle of a 4-County Metro area with a list of accolades that gets longer every year.

- Tastiest Town in the South
- #1 Creative Class Metros
- #1 Best Place to Retire
- #3 Best Small City for Relocating Families
- #3 Best Place to Ride Out a Recession
- #3 Best Place for Business and Careers
- #5 in Top 100 Places to Live
- #6 of America's 10 Smartest Cities
- Top City for Creative People
- #1 Percentage of Creative Class Workforce
- #1 in economic strength for 25 years
- #2 Best Places to Live in the South
- #2 Healthiest Area in America
- #2 Most Educated Area in America
- Home to Nobel Laureates Robert J. Lefkowitz and Paul Modrich



Discover even more great things about Durham at durham-nc.com

Durham Knows How To Take A Stand.

Here are a few of the individuals and organizations from Durham's history that took a stand on an issue and, regardless of opposition or adversity, helped shape Durham as it is today.

- Bill Bell – public school merger
- C.C. Spaulding & Dr. James Shepard – Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People
- Dr. John Hope Franklin – recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Duke and NCCU Students – first interracial basketball game
- InterNeighborhood Council – billboards and neighborhood issues
- John Short – NC Pride Parade in Old West Durham
- Judge Floyd McKissick and Rev. Douglas Moore – Civil Disobedience trainers
- Margaret Nygard – conservation of the Eno River
- Martin Eakes – home and business ownership for underserved populations
- Mary Semans and Elna Spaulding – Women-in-Action
- Pauli Murray – nationally-known lawyer, activist, and champion for civil & human rights
- Preservation Durham – saving the Carolina Theatre and St. Joseph's
- R. Kelly Bryant – Durham historian and activist
- Rev. Douglas Moore – Royal Ice Cream Parlor sit-in
- Reyn Bowman – Durham's image and identity

Durham Grew Up On The Shoulders Of Giants.

Here are a few of the individuals who made an important and lasting impact on shaping Durham into what it is today.



- Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore
- Dr. Bartlett Leonidas Durham
- Charles Clinton Spaulding
- Dr. James E. Shepard
- John Merrick
- John Sprunt Hill
- Julian Watts Carr
- Richard Burton Fitzgerald
- Washington and James B. Duke
- William T. Blackwell

Durham Advances Social Change Through Innovation And Entrepreneurship.

Here are a few of the organizations whose missions include using innovation and entrepreneurial principals to advance a social mission or effect social change.

- Bull City Forward
- Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) at Duke's Fuqua School of Business
- Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership
- American Underground
- Eno River Association
- Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Latino Community Credit Union
- SEEDS
- Self-Help
- SJF Ventures
- TROSA
- United Durham Inc.
- Triangle Startup Factory

Durham's Been On The Warpath.

From frontiersmen in the Regulator movement to the Flat River Guards, soldiers and infantrymen of the Civil War, Durham's people and sites have played an important role in some of our nation's biggest conflicts. Here are some of those places.

- Bennett Place
- Duke Homestead
- Durham Station
- Historic Stagville
- Maplewood Cemetery
- New Hope Creek
- Old Durham County Courthouse
- Orange Factory
- Stagecoach Road
- West Point on the Eno



Durham Gives Historic Buildings A New Lease On Life.

Here are a few of the most notable adaptive reuse projects throughout Durham.

- American Tobacco
- The Chesterfield
- Brightleaf Square
- Durham Arts Council
- Durham Hosiery Mill
- Erwin Mill
- Golden Belt
- Hayti Heritage Center
- Measurement Inc.
- Venable Tobacco
- West Village

Durham Takes The LEED.

Durham has an abundance of LEED-certified buildings (the most per capita in NC) in both the public and private sector, including many "firsts."

- 209 N. Gregson building
- Duke University – 41 LEED Certified buildings, including the Home Depot Smart Home
- Duke University Medical Center – 3 buildings certified
- Durham County – 5 buildings certified, including libraries, a school, and a waste water treatment plant
- EPA National Data Center
- GF Management Office and Imperial Tower
- Golden Belt Arts Complex
- Merck Operations Support Facility
- Mez Restaurant
- Research Triangle Park Headquarters
- RTI International building
- SmithGroup Office at American Tobacco
- Syngenta Regulatory Sciences Laboratory
- U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services
- Plus: additional projects currently seeking LEED certification

Durham Houses Magnificent Works Of Art.

Durham is home to more than 400 working artists, 43 museums and galleries, and scores of outdoor sculptures and murals. Here are some of the fabulous places to enjoy the visual arts in Durham.

- 21c Museum Hotel
- Durham Art Guild SunTrust Gallery
- Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University
- Durham Arts Council – Allenton Gallery
- Durham Arts Council – Ella Fountain Pratt Legacy Gallery
- Durham Arts Council – Semans Gallery
- Durham School of the Arts
- Golden Belt Arts Complex – Room 100
- Hayti Heritage Center – Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery
- Hugh Mangum Museum of Photography
- Louise Jones Brown Gallery
- Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University
- NC Central University Museum of Art

Durham Is Home To 400+ Working Artists.

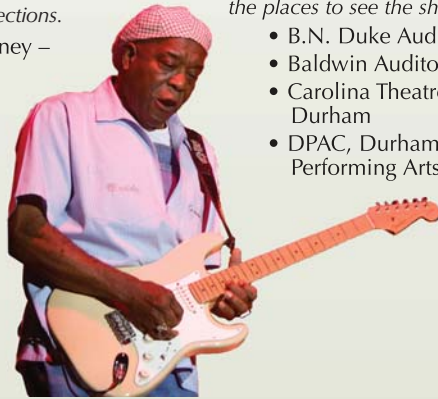
They work in different media, from paints to metals, bringing to life what lies deep within our souls. Here are just a few of the acclaimed artists that call Durham home.

- Jacob Cooley
- Al Frega
- Jose Galvez
- Beverly McIver
- Jim Kellough
- Irwin Kremen
- Nancy Tuttle May
- Caroline Vaughan
- Francis Vega
- Conrad Weiser
- Aaron Michael Moore, III

Durham Birthed The Piedmont Blues, And Dances To The Beat.

Durham's been moving with the music ever since the Blues came to be and has been home to premier dance for decades. Here are just a few of the people who have Durham connections.

- African American Dance Ensemble – Dr. Chuck Davis
- American Dance Festival – Charles and Stephanie Reinhart
- Blind Boy Fuller
- Branford Marsalis
- Clyde McPhatter
- Collage Dance Company – Sadiyan Shakur
- Don Schlitz
- John D. Loudermilk
- John Dee Holeman
- Nancy Pinckney – Hayti Legacy Recipient
- Nicholas Kitchen
- Nnenna Freelon
- Reverend Gary Davis
- Shirley Caesar
- Carolina Chocolate Drops



Durham Is A Great Place To Visit.

Durham's got lots of great reasons to visit, and others are noticing. When compared with other destinations, the Bull City and its features make the grade.

- Named one of *Travel + Leisure's* Best Places to Travel in 2015
- *Jetsetter's* #3 destination to visit in the world in 2016
- One of the 10 Best Places to Spend it All in One Place
- #6 Best Public Garden
- Second-most attended theater nationally
- Tastiest Town in the South
- America's Foodiest Small Town
- One of the 10 Greatest Beer Festivals
- #4 Family Friendly Museum in the Southeast
- Best Basketball Town to Visit
- One of the Top 5 "Little Big Ballparks"



Durham Gets Down To Business.

Durham is home to some major corporations and fascinating start-ups. Here are a few of Durham's business superlatives.

- #3 Best Place for Business and Careers
- Highest wages in the South
- National top 10 corporation for working moms
- 3 top-10 firms on *Black Enterprise* 100s Report
- World's leading research and development center
- NC's largest private employer
- 3 of the century's Top 20 NC Business People
- World's largest clinical research organization
- Among best workplaces in higher education
- #6 strongest brainpower
- #6 best city for women in the workforce

Durham's The Perfect Place To Meet.

With the sights, food, and facilities to handle up to 85% of the nation's meetings, here are some reasons why Durham is a great place to meet.

- Hosts more than 3,500 meetings and conventions annually
- More than 300,000 square feet of meeting space
- 9 major convention hotels
- More than 9,400 guest rooms
- Five full-service conference centers
- More than 2 dozen unique auditoriums, theatres, and unique meeting sites
- Within an hour's flight or day's drive of over half the nation's population
- Professional sales and services staff at DCVB to assist meeting planners
- Complimentary planning resources for groups
- Nationally celebrated restaurants, top-rated golf courses, unique shopping, and major historic sites and museums that entertain and captivate attendees.

Durham Really Knows How To Tell A Story.

Prose that ranges from history to business and from nature to ethnic diversity; fiction that brings to life interesting characters and fascinating places – that's what these Durham authors have written about.

- Jean Bradley Anderson
- Clyde Edgerton
- Eli Evans
- John Hope Franklin
- Katy Munger
- Pauli Murray
- Gwendolyn Parker
- Frances Gray Patton
- Reynolds Price
- Walter B. Weare

Durham Is Home To Lights, Camera, Action.

It's too bad the Academy doesn't recognize the role of best supporting town, because Durham has had its share of Hollywood hits. Here are a few of the films that feature Durham.

- Billy Bathgate
- Brainstorm
- Bright Leaf
- Bull Durham
- Getting In
- The Handmaid's Tale
- Kiss the Girls
- Main Street
- Once Around



Durham Deserves A Standing Ovation For Performance Venues.

From historic to contemporary, there are a lot of great places to watch music, theater, film, and dance in Durham. And there are performances year 'round to delight the entire family. Here are the places to see the shows that Durham has to offer.

- B.N. Duke Auditorium
- Baldwin Auditorium
- Carolina Theatre of Durham
- DPAC, Durham Performing Arts Center
- Manbites Dog Theater Company
- Page Auditorium
- PSI Theater at Durham Arts Council
- R.J. Reynolds Industries Theater
- St. Joseph's Performance Hall at the Hayti Heritage Center
- University Theater, NC Central University
- Common Ground Theatre
- Full Frame Theater

Durham Is Home To Major National Associations.

Not only do the world's associations and societies come to meet in Durham, some of them call Durham home.

- American Association of Surgeons Oncology Group
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- American Social Health Association, Inc.
- Divers Alert Network
- ISA: Instrumentation, Systems, & Automation Society
- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
- Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
- National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
- National Press Photographers Association
- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society

Durham's Faith Can Move Mountains.

Here are a few examples of Durham's recognition as a place where great faith happens.

- Home to several mega churches with worldwide notoriety
- Ebrahim Moosa – among 500 most influential Muslims
- James Shepard – National Religious Training School & Chataqua (now NCCU)
- Jewish Heritage Foundation of NC – independent organization dedicated to Jewish Culture
- John P. Kee – Stellar, Billboard, & Soul Train Awards Winner, and in the Christian Music Hall of Fame
- Saint Pauli Murray – first African-American woman Episcopal priest
- Shirley Caesar – first African American to win a Grammy for gospel music, now with 11 awards
- St. Joseph AME congregation – restored the 1891 former sanctuary of St. Joseph's AME Church, one of America's first autonomous African-American churches
- Washington Duke and Julian Carr – Trinity College (now Duke University)
- Duke University – Chaplains representing all five major religions

For complete information on things to see and do, places to eat, places to stay, and places to shop while in Durham, call or stop by the official Durham Visitor Information Center.



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