

CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY WALKING TOUR

For a map showing these and other uptown attractions, return to the home page, click on "Downloads" and select "Uptown Attractions Map."

Our tour begins at the Visit Charlotte Visitor Info Center, 330 South Tryon Street. We walk one block to



Charlotte's new "cultural campus," home of the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Mint Museum Uptown, the Knight Theater, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, and the 48-story Duke Energy Center. Here we can walk beneath Niki de Saint Phalle's towering

"Firebird" (*l'Oiseau de Feu Sur l'Arche*), which has become an icon for Charlotte's newest arts district. Next we cross Tryon Street to see St. Peter's Catholic Church, home of Charlotte's oldest Roman Catholic parish, and stroll through The Green, a charming mini-park filled with many whimsical artworks.

Our tour takes us through Three Wachovia Center and the Wachovia Atrium into the Overstreet Mall, a system of walkways connecting many of Uptown's major buildings.

Along the way we learn some of Charlotte's history, from the first settlement at the intersection of two Indian trading paths, its part in the American Revolution, and the 19th century gold rush. We learn why Charlotte is called "the Queen City" and why British General Cornwallis gave us the nickname,

"Hornets' Nest." At Independence Square we see the site of Mecklenburg County's first courthouse, where the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in 1775.

Our tour pauses at Arnaldo Pomodoro's *Grande Disco*, and we learn some little known details about Raymond Kaskey's four bronze statues marking the Square, one of which bears the face of a modern-day financial leader.



Our tour includes a visit to the lobby of Charlotte's tallest building, the 60-story Bank of America Corporate Center, where we see three

massive frescoes by the noted artist Ben Long. We see the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and visit Founder's Hall, a community gathering place adjoining the lobby.

Next, we see the Hearst Tower. At 46 stories, it is Charlotte's third-tallest skyscraper.

Other points of interest along Tryon Street include Carolina Theater, the Public Library, Discovery Place and Spirit Square. We see another St. Peter's Church, this one the home of Charlotte's original Episcopal congregation, which has had a role in much of Charlotte's history.

At Transamerica Square we view another Ben Long fresco, this one covering a 1047-square foot domed surface.



From here we stroll into Fourth Ward, a historic neighborhood of lovingly restored old Victorian homes, many dating from the 1800s, as well as Charlotte's first civilian hospital, now serving as a condominium.

Then our tour winds through Settlers Cemetery, Charlotte's first burial ground, where numerous leaders from the city's past are interred. We hear the story of Charlotte's original Town Church and how it became First Presbyterian Church.

Next we pass the site of Cook's Inn, where President George Washington not only slept, but left behind an amusing memento.

We then continue back to Independence Square, where the tour concludes.

The tour lasts about 90 minutes and covers a walking distance of about one and one-half miles. For more information call the Visitor Info Center, 704-331-2753. The tour is free.



Please see page 2 for further information.

Additional Notes

Are Reservations Needed?

Advance reservations are not required for the Friday walking tours. However, the tour is limited to a maximum of twelve people, and tours do occasionally get filled up. Therefore, it's a good idea to check ahead before coming to the visitor center.

Group Tours

The regular Friday tours are intended for individuals, families and walk-in guests. Reservations for groups of more than six persons are not accepted for the Friday tours. Private tours for organized groups may be scheduled on days other than Fridays. If you have a group that wants a tour, please call ahead to see if a special time can be arranged.

Accessible Tours Available

Our regular walking tour goes up and down steps, uses escalators, and generally is not suitable for persons in wheelchairs, parents with strollers, or those who have difficulty walking. However, with prior arrangement, the tour guide will be happy to plan an alternate route suitable for persons with disabilities. The tour also may be customized as to time or distance to accommodate individual needs and interests. Please call several days before you wish to take the tour to discuss any special arrangements.

About the Tour Guide

The tour guide is Russ Ford, a volunteer at the Visit Charlotte Visitor Center with more than ten years' experience leading bus and walking tours of Charlotte. A descendant of original settlers who first came to the Charlotte area in the 1700s, Russ is a retired news broadcaster, writer, and amateur historian. He has been named Charlotte's "Ambassador of the Year" by the Charlotte Convention and Visitors Bureau (now the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority) and is a certified Charlotte tour guide.

Contact Us

Ask questions about the tour, get more information about Charlotte, or send a comment about this web site to:

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