

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 Levine Center for the Arts, 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

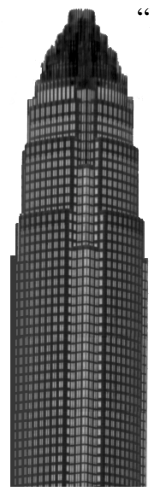
"Firebird" (*l'Oiseau de Feu Sur l'Arche*), which has become an icon for Charlotte's newest arts district. Next we cross Tryon Street to see St. Peter's Catholic Church, home of Charlotte's oldest Roman Catholic parish, and stroll through The Green, a charming mini-park filled with many whimsical artworks.

Our tour takes us through Three Wells Fargo Center and the Wells Fargo 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 Founders Hall, a shopping destination and gathering place adjoining the lobby.

From Founders Hall we take the sky bridge into the Urban Garden adjoining 1 Bank of America Center, the bank's newest uptown skyscraper. Exiting onto Fifth Street, we cross to the International Trade Center, where we view a statue of Queen Charlotte and learn a few interesting facts about the person for whom our city is named.

Next, the tour enters the Hearst Tower for a brief visit to the Bank of America Gallery, home to changing exhibits of intriguing and sometimes amusing artwork.



Normally, the tour concludes after returning to Independence Square and/or the visitor center.

Depending on available time, the weather and interest of the group, the tour guide may offer an optional visit into Fourth Ward, a historic

neighborhood of lovingly restored old homes, many dating from the 1800s, as well as Charlotte's first civilian hospital, now converted into condominiums.

The Fourth Ward tour may include a stroll 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.

The tour time varies from about 90 minutes to two hours, depending on distance covered.

A typical tour may be a mile or more in length. For more information call the Charlotte Visitor Info Center, 704-331-2753.

The tour is free.



Please see additional tour information on page 2.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The free walking tour is conducted by a volunteer guide and is offered on most Fridays, for families and individuals, up to a total of 12 persons per tour.

Tours leave from the visitor center at 10 a.m., rain or shine. **Reservations are not required**, but it is recommended you call ahead about availability before coming uptown.

ACCESSIBILITY

The 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. Please contact the tour guide (tourguide@carolina.rr.com) several days before you wish to take the tour to discuss any special arrangements.

GROUP TOURS

The volunteer who conducts the free walking tours is not available to lead private group tours. If you have a group that wishes to schedule a private walking or van tour, step-on guide service or tours of areas outside of Uptown, the visitor center (704-331-2753) will be happy to recommend tour providers who offer these services.

PARKING

There are numerous parking lots and parking decks near the visitor center. Costs vary, with decks nearest the visitor center generally more expensive. Do not park in curbside spaces on the streets, as the tours may last longer than the time you are permitted to park in these spaces. When you come, please allow time for finding a parking place and walking to the visitor center.

USING LIGHT RAIL

Free parking is available at seven light rail stations along South Boulevard, where you may purchase round-trip tickets for the Lynx Blue Line. The closest to Uptown is the Scaleybark station. Get off the train at the Convention Center/Third Street station. Walk west on Martin Luther King Boulevard two blocks to the visitor center at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Tryon Street.

CONTACT US

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

tourguide@carolina.rr.com