Durham: A Beginner’s Guide
Population: A combination of small and big city

Durham
251,893

Durham/Chapel Hill
542,710

Durham/Chapel Hill/Raleigh (RTP)
2,037,430

(7/2014 census)
University Life:

- **Duke University**
  - 6,500 Undergraduates
  - 8,500 Graduate Students

- **North Carolina Central University**
  - 9,600 Undergraduate/Graduate Students

- **UNC Chapel Hill**
  - 18,500 Undergraduates
  - 10,500 Graduate Students

- **North Carolina State University**
  - 24,000 Undergraduates
  - 10,000 Graduate Students
Climate: 4 true seasons

- **Cool Winters:** 6.8” snow per year (usually melts within a few days)
- **Warm Spring**
- **Mild Fall**
- **Hot/Humid Summer**
How different snowfall amounts affect different regions of the country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accumulation:</th>
<th>East Coast:</th>
<th>The South:</th>
<th>Midwest:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flurries, &gt;1 inch:</td>
<td>Commute times increased by 25-50%</td>
<td>Mild panic and a general sense of doom.</td>
<td>Start to think about wearing long pants... Maybe...</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 Inches:</td>
<td>Travel advisories issued.</td>
<td>Schools Closed.</td>
<td>Have to brush the snow off the grill before cooking out or tailgating before the Packer game.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-8 Inches:</td>
<td>Air traffic diverted, Flights delayed or cancelled.</td>
<td>Stores emptied of bottled water, bread and other emergency provisions.</td>
<td>Roads get salted, Walking the dog becomes a bit more labor intensive. (The dog loves it though...)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-12 Inches:</td>
<td>Continuous reporting on CNN, The Weather Channel about this year’s “SNOWMAGEDDON.”</td>
<td>State of Emergency Declared.</td>
<td>Everyone stocking up on beer cause lines at liquor stores to become even longer than usual.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-24 Inches:</td>
<td>Schools closed, as well as businesses, airports, hospitals, and all non-essential Government services.</td>
<td>Federal Disaster Declared. National Guard called in.</td>
<td>Minor Traffic Delays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36+ Inches</td>
<td>Jim Cantore spotted.</td>
<td>Nothing left alive except for small burrowing mammals which will eventually evolve and repopulate the region.</td>
<td>SNOW DAY! (\text{YAY!!!}) (Except for you, You still have to go in to work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethnically Diverse

- 42% White
- 41% Black/African American
- 5% Asian
- 14% Hispanic Ethnicity

(7/2014 census)
Well Educated!
Durham is Forbes #3 most educated city in the US (Raleigh is #2)
Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill are known for their research/technology roots and collegiate rivalries. This tri-city region (known as the Triangle) is luring nearly 80 new residents a day with strong job growth and a high quality of life. Many people who call Raleigh-Durham home are young, friendly, diverse and educated.

They enjoy dining out in local restaurants – many of which have earned national accolades – and gathering over craft beers in one of the region's many microbreweries. A strong sense of community is evident, as strangers are quick to provide a friendly conversation when standing in line at the supermarket. The Raleigh-Durham metro area also encompasses beautiful green spaces, family-friendly museums and a growing art and music scene defined by monthly gallery walks, summer concerts and music festivals like Hopscotch.
#1 Best City For Traveling Millennials Ready To Settle Down
Forbes.com August 2017

#1 Durham, North Carolina

This North Carolina city offers three times the amount of jobs and a 6 percent lower cost of living compared to national averages. Transportation can balloon your cost of living quite a bit, between fuel, maintenance and the car itself, but, thankfully, Durham is ranked top 15 in the nation in terms of ease of commute.

For comparison, New York City has the longest commute time out of any city in the nation. Not to mention long commute times are linked to low life satisfaction.
Delicious Food! BBQ, Vegetarian, High End, Cheap Eats… Durham has it all!

Touted as the **Tastiest Town in the South**, Durham’s **multi-cultural food scene** has been praised by *Gourmet* and *Bon Appétit* magazines as well at *The New York Times*. 
From **trendy bistros and brew pubs to food trucks and fine dining**, you will find a wealth of award-winning selections.

**Down-home Southern cooking:** Dame’s Chicken and Waffles and the Salt Box in a casual setting

**BBQ:** try Bullock’s, the Pit, or the Q-Shack

**Trendy:** Dashi, the Counting House or Revolution

**Upscale:** Nana’s, Piedmont, or Four Square

**Burgers:** Bull City Burger, Dane’s, or Only Burger

**Sweets:** Parlour ice cream, Loco-Pops, Scratch Bakery, or Rise
For more spirited fun, Durham boasts **independent breweries, distilleries, and bars** with hand-crafted cocktails.

**Casual:** Full Steam Brewery, Ponysaurus Brewing, the Durham Distillery, Bull City Ciderworks

**Fancy:** Alley 26, Bar Virgile and the roof-top cocktail lounge at The Durham Hotel
Annual Durham Events:
There is always something going on

- **Full Frame Documentary Film Festival:** Spring
- **The Doughman Quadrathlon:** Eat, Bike, Run, Swim (a team based “Self-propelled culinary tour of Durham”)
- **Art of Cool Jazz Festival:** Spring
- **MoogFest:** Spring
- **North Carolina Juneteenth Celebration:** June 19
- **Festival for the Eno:** July 4th weekend
- **American Dance Festival:** June-July
- NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival: August
- Bull Durham Blues Festival: September
- CenterFest Arts Festival: September
- NC Pride Parade: September
- Bull City Race Fest: Fall (1 mile, 5 mile, ½ marathon, music and food trucks)
- World Beer Festival: October
- NC Comicon and Comiquest Film Festival: November
Uniquely Durham...

**Durham Bulls Athletic Park:** 10k seat stadium for Triple A minor league feeder team to Tampa Bay Rays
Duke Gardens: 55-acre public garden, 5 miles of trails and walks
Uniquely Durham...

**DPAC:** largest performing arts center in North and South Carolina (Broadway, comedy, concerts), #3 top theatre in the WORLD
Uniquely Durham...

Third Fridays, First Fridays: Monthly Open Gallery events in Durham and Raleigh
Uniquely Durham...

**Duke Lemur Center:** world’s largest sanctuary for rare and endangered primates
American Tobacco Trail: 23 mile rail-trail built on an abandoned railroad corridor popular with runners, bicyclists and others
Uniquely Durham...

Scrap Exchange: Durham’s Non-profit “Creative Reuse Center”
Uniquely Durham...

Duke University Chapel: neo-Gothic architecture, designed by Julian Abele in 1930
Uniquely Durham...

Cameron Indoor Stadium: the “crown jewel of college basketball's classic venues”
Nature... it’s very close

- **ENO River Quarry, State Park** (15 minutes by car)
- **Umstead State Park** (20 minutes by car)
- **Jordon Lake** (30 minutes by car)
- **Blue Ridge Mountains** (4 hours by car)
- **Wrightsville Beach** (2.5 hours by car)
- **Outer Banks** (4 hours by car)
Local Museums

- **Nasher Museum** – Free with Duke ID
- **Ackland Museum** – Free
- **North Carolina Museum of Art** – Free except for special exhibits
- **Contemporary Art Museum of Raleigh**
- **Museum of Life + Science**
- **Marbles Kids Museum**
- **North Carolina Museum of History** – Free
- **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** – Free
Other Art/Culture:

- **Duke Performances:** Classic and Modern Music ($15 tickets for ages 30 and under)
- **Man Bites Dog Theatre:** Local, Experimental Theatre Group
- **Carolina Performing Arts:** @UNC Music, Dance
- **Playmakers Repertory:** @UNC Classic and Modern Theatre
Getting Around...

- **Car:** Parking Pass provided by program
- **Bike**
- **Scooter**
- **Bull City Connector:** fare-free hybrid-electric bus with service to downtown
- **Go Pass:** unlimited rides on GoDurham, GoTriangle, and GoRaleigh ($25 per year)
- **Robertson Express Bus:** (The “Scholars Bus”) free with Go PASS
- **Amtrak**
Housing

- **Median Sale Price:**
  - $185k
  - $111 per sq/ft

- **Median Rent:**
  - $1,300/month

Single family homes, townhouses, lofts, apartment complexes

(updated August 2016)
Housing

- **Doctor’s Mortgage:** typically no down payment, student loans/debt don’t count against you
  - Suntrust: typically pre-approved for ~$200k (with single income, i.e. resident’s salary)
  - Bank of America

- **Dukelist.duke.edu** (Duke only housing site)
Public Schools:

- **George Watts Elementary School**: Montessori Magnet (Lottery)
- **E.K. Powe Elementary School**
- **Durham School of the Arts (6-12)**: Magnet (Lottery)
- **Pearsontown Elementary**: Magnet (Lottery)
- **City of Medicine Academy (9-12)**: Magnet (Application/Lottery)
- **School for Creative Studies (6-12)**: Magnet (Lottery)
Private Schools:

- Durham Academy (preK-12)
- Carolina Friends School (preK-12)
- Duke School (preK-8)

Also:

- Central Park School For Children (k-8): Charter School (Lottery)
- North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (10-12): Application
Kids!

- Marbles Museum
- Museum Life+Science
- Defy Gravity, Sky Zone (Indoor Trampoline Parks)
- Spray Grounds (water features in 5 Durham Public Parks)
- Notasium (interactive music-based playspace)
- Scrap Exchange (Make-N-Take craft room)
- Wheels Fun Park (Roller rink, go karts, mini golf, skate park, batting cages)