Here are some of the greatest things about Durham.

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 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 Appetit, Esquire, and Gourmet.

- **Tastiest Town in the South**
- One of the top 100 restaurants in the nation
- Diners of nationally or regionally recognized restaurants
- America’s Kool 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 cities 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 just 15 of Durham’s Signature Annual Events with high recognition nationally or significant out-of-state and in-state visitor appeal.

- ACC Basketball Championship
- American Dance Festival
- Art of Cool Jazz Festival
- Bennett Place Civil War Surrender Re-enactments
- Bis Michelle Cultural Arts Festival
- Bull Durham Blues Festival
- The Douglas Quaker School
- Durham Arts Council’s Centerfest
- Durham Art Walk Spring/Holiday Markets
- Festival for the Eno
- Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
- Mosquito
- Native American Powwow
- NC Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- NC Central University & Comicon Film Festival
- NC Pride Parade and Festival
- SunTrust Broadway Series at DPAC
- World Beer Festival

**Durham Really 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
- #1 NC Civil Rights sit-ins to protect integration
- 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 Durham University
- Basketball fast break/zone press innovations
- One of the first autonomous religious congregations

**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 view.

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

**Durham Has Been Very Inventive.**
Over the years, Durham has spawned some pretty remarkable ideas. From headphone providers to barcode 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 Pouders
- Childhood 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 a 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
- Rhino Ride Bike Center
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Durham Really Makes The Grade When It Comes To Education.**
From grammar school to continuing education, Durham offers some of the finest lifelong learning opportunities in the nation. At almost every level, Durham students outperform their peers. Here are a few of the educational accolades of which Durham can be proud.

- #3 best university in the nation
- #5 best medical school in the U.S.
- #1 best law school for women in U.S.
- #1 best full-time MBA program in U.S.
- #9 best business school for Hispanics in U.S.
- #10 law and #12 business schools in U.S.
- 1st public residential high school for science & math
- One of only 121 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes nationwide
- 2 of the top universities for African-Americans
- 4 schools among America’s Top 1,300 High Schools
- Students outscore peers in NC & U.S. on SAT

**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 medical school for geriatrics
- #5 medical school for internal medicine
- #6 medical school for research
- #6 metro for pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing
- #6 metro for medical school for AIDS treatment
- #7 hospital in nation
- #66 of all biotechnology firms in NC

**Durham Is Home To A Lot of Acclaim.**
Durham is the place to experience the 4-County Metro area with a list of accolades that gets longer every year.

- #1 Washingtonian’s Top City in the South
- #1 Creative Class Metro
- #1 Best Place to Relocate Families
- #3 Flat Tax: Place Out a Recession
- #3 Best Small City for Relocating Families
- #5 Best City for Business and Careers
- #5 in Top 100 Places to Live
- #6 Metro for Small Cities
- #7 Top City for Creative People

- #1 Percentage of Creative Class Workplace
- #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
- #2 Most Educated Area in America
- #6 Metro for Small Cities
- #7 Best City for Creative People

**Photo Credits:**
Duke Lemur Center – David Haring/DCVB; Research Triangle Institute/DCVB; Durham Craft Market – markschuelerphoto.com/DCVB
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 Pull - public school teacher
• C.C. Spaulding & D. James Shepard – Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People
• Dr. John Haygood Franklin – recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom
• Duke Basketball Students – first intercollegiate basketball game
• Interneighborhood Council – billboards and neighborhood signs
• John Short – NC Pride Parade in Old West Durham
• Judy McKissick and Rev. Douglas Moore – Civil Disobedience trainers
• Margaret Nygaard – conservation of the Eno River
• Martin Tankers – home and business ownership for underrepresented populations
• Mary Smith and Eula Spaulding – Women-in-Action
• Paul Murray – nationally-recognized lawyer, activist, and champion for civil & human rights
• Preservation Durham – saving the Carolina Theatre and St. Joseph's
• Kelli Kellough – Durham historian and activist
• Rev. Douglas Moore – Royal Ice Cream Parker sit-in
• Royen Bowman – Durham’s image and identity

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. Beattie Leonidas Durham
• Charles Clinton Spaulding
• Dr. James E. Shepard
• John T. Ford
• John Sprunt Hill
• Julian Watts Carr
• Richard Burton Fitzgerald
• Washington Duke and Julian Carr – Trinity College (now Duke University)
• St. Joseph AME congregation – restored the 1891 former sanctuary of St. Joseph’s AME Church, one of America’s first autonomous African-American churches
• James Shepard – National Religious Training School & College
• Charles Edgerton
• Clyde McPhatter
• Collage Dance Company
• Sadayn Bukar
• Virginia Climbright
• John D. Loudenmilk
• John Dee Hofman
• Jamie Smith, Jr.
• Dr. Chuck
• popcorn, and then other people who have Durham connections.

Durham Is Home To 400+ Working Artists.
They work in different media, from paint to metal, bringing to life what lives deep within our souls. Here are just a few of the acclaimed artists that call Durham home.

• Jacob Cooley
• Al Ferg
• Jose Galvez
• Beverly McHer
• Jim Kellogg
• Irwin Kremen
• Marcia Newhall
• Nancy Pinnix
• Tim Price
• Larry Griffith
• Z. Sarah Overton
• Caroline Vaughan
• Frank Vargas
• Conrad Weisser
• Aaron Michael
• Moore, III

Durham Is A Great Place To Visit.
Durham gets lost on purpose and others are noticing. When compared with other destinations, the Bull City and its neighborhoods are unique.

• Named one of Travel + Leisure’s Best Places to Travel in 2015
• Best of the Bull City’s #1 destination to visit in the world in 2016
• One of the ten cities to spend it all in one place
• #1 Best Public Garden
• #2 - Best Attended Theater
• #3 - Best Cheese Curd Factory
• #3 - Best Family Friendly Museum in the Southeast
• #4 - Best Basketball Team to Visit
• #5 - 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 examples of Durham’s recognition as a place where great things happen.

• #1 Best City for Business and Careers
• #2 – Highest wages in the South
• #3 – Largest corporation for working moms
• #3 – 3 top-10 firms on Black Enterprise 100 Report
• #3 – World’s leading research and development center
• #3 – National top 10 corporation for working moms
• #3 – 3 of the century’s Top 20 NC Business People
• #3 – World’s largest clinical research organization
• #5 – Among best workplaces in higher education
• #5 – Second-most attended theater nationally
• #5 – Tallest In The South
• #6 – America’s Foodiest Small Town
• #6 – Best Family Friendly Museum in the Southeast
• #7 – #1 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #2 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #3 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #4 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #5 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #6 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #7 city by city in the workplace
• #7 – #8 city by city in the workplace

Durham Has Great Festivals.
From historic to contemporary, there are a lot of great festivals to watch music, theater, film, and dance in Durham. And there are others that are noticed by the world.

• #10 – Carolina Blues Festival
• #5 – Bull Durham Blues Festival
• #3 – DPAC, Durham
• #2 – Durham Performing Arts Center

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 Medical Association
• American Society for Art Therapy
• American Association of Surgeons
• American Chemical Society (IUPAC)
• American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
• American Marketing Association
• ASA: Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society
• International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
• Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
• National Association of Blacks in Italy
• National Press Photographers Association
• Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Society

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