Downtown Durham, North Carolina's first commercial district on the National Register of Historic Places, is the historic and geographic soul of a compact, walkable, and vibrant place overflowing with renowned restaurants and unique things to see and do.

This self-guided walking tour introduces the history of Downtown Durham's significant sites, architecture, public art, and more, all of which is enjoyed by thousands of visitors and residents every day. For convenience, the Bull City Connector is a free bus connecting all of downtown, making it easy to explore all of the areas on the tour.

This tour is also a companion to the Downtown Map & Guide (shown at left), which is produced by the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau in partnership with Downtown Durham Inc. It contains complete listings of downtown's restaurants, shopping, and entertainment options. Request a copy through the Durham Visitor Info Center, located at the Trust Building (#20E on map) at 212 W. Main St. in Downtown, or from one of DDI's Downtown Ambassadors.

Wayfinding signs (shown at left) featuring Downtown's districts and landmarks are located throughout Downtown to help visitors navigate.

Follow along with the tour on your mobile phone by going to http://durham/downtownwt.
The Downtown Durham walking tour is approximately 1.2 miles. Estimated walking time for the main route is 30 minutes or two to three hours with extensions.

**MAIN ROUTE**

**BEGIN AT 212 W MAIN ST #101**

1. **Durham Visitor Info Center:** Experience experts are on hand to assist visitors and newcomers with directions, maps, and literature. Also home to Durham’s official marketing agency, the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Info Center is housed in the historic Trust Building, a 1905 Beaux Arts-style building and tallest office building in the state at the time of its construction. (212 W Main St #101)

**HEAD WEST ON MAIN ST**

2. **Main Street:** A series of architecturally and historically significant properties, many with lofts/residences along the second story. (Main St inside Downtown Loop)

3. **Old Hill Building:** 1925 Georgian revival Old Hill Building commissioned by John Sprunt Hill. (300 Block of W Main St)

4. **Temple Building:** 1909 Spanish colonial-style Temple Building built with leftover materials from the 1909 Watts Hospital. (302 W Main St)

5. **1904 Beaux Arts-style building:** (315 W Main St)

6. **Snow Building:** One of Durham’s finest art deco structures, built in 1933. Its elevator was the last in the state run by a full-time operator. (331 W Main St)

7. **Five Points/Muirhead Plaza:** Includes site of 1906 invention of BC Headache Powder. (Intersection of W Main, E Chapel Hill, and Morris Sts)

Leaving Five Points and continuing on the Downtown Loop, the Warehouse District is on the right. Dominated by West Village, the Liggett & Myers tobacco buildings that have been converted to hundreds of apartments, offices, shops, and restaurants. Complex includes the original 1884 W. Duke and Sons factory and the 1897 Walker Warehouse, the oldest example of a Neo-Romanesque warehouse, first built by the American Tobacco Trust.

CONTINUE ALONG W. MAIN ST TO EXTENSION B OR TURN LEFT ON W CHAPEL HILL STREET FOR

**EXTENSION C. TO CONTINUE ROUTE, HEAD NORTH ON MORRIS ST.**

**Heading North on Morris St.**

8A. **Civil Rights mural:** part of a collaborative art project under the direction of Brenda Miller Holmes. (At the parking lot next to 120 Morris St.)

8B. **Durham Arts Council:** Former 1906 Central High School and later City Hall. Now 52,000-sq.-ft. arts center with performance space, three galleries, and meeting rooms. (120 Morris St)

**LOOK LEFT ON GREAT JONES ST**

9. **Museum of Durham History Hub:** A physical outpost of the Museum of Durham History website, where visitor can get a hands-on sense of Durham’s history through images, signage, and interactive digital displays. (500 W Main St)

**TURN RIGHT ON MORGAN ST**

**Downtown Centre Building & Plaza:** Fifteen-story commercial building housing the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce and Duke Clinical Research Institute, a powerhouse behind research trials as well as a major area employer. (300 W Morgan St)

**Museum of the Durham History**

**Hub:** A physical outpost of the Museum of Durham History website, where visitor can get a hands-on sense of Durham’s history through images, signage, and interactive digital displays. (500 W Main St)

**FOR C. TO CONTINUE**

**EXTENSION C. TO CONTINUE ROUTE, HEAD NORTH ON MORRIS ST.**

**Heading North on Morris St.**

10. **Carolina Theatre:** Renovated 1926 Beaux Arts-style theater housing national touring acts and live performances, as well as cinemas for independent and art films and festivals. Site of civil rights protests in the early 1960s (309 W Morgan St)

11. **Civic Center Plaza:** Includes fountains, outdoor gathering space, and seating. (201 Foster St)

**CONTINUE TO EXTENSION A OR TURN RIGHT ON FOSTER ST.**

South on Foster

12. **Duke Art Center:** Anchors the Durham Convention Center Complex and includes 102,940-net-sq.-ft. of exhibition/banquet halls, theaters, meeting rooms, reception areas, galleries, and an outdoor plaza. Durham can host most of the nation’s conventions and meetings. (301 W Morgan St)

**CONTINUE ON CORCORAN**

13. **CCB Plaza:** Named for the former Central Carolina Bank (now SunTrust), the plaza’s focus is The Major, a life-sized, one-ton bronze bull (a legacy emblem of Durham), commissioned by the bank and crafted by local artisans at the George Watts Hill Pavilion for the Arts. (E Chapel Hill and Corcoran St)

**VIEW RIGHT, PAST CCB PLAZA**

14. **Bull City Business Center:** Former home of The Herald-Sun newspaper; built in the late 1920s with Italian Renaissance styling. Now home to Downtown Durham, Inc. (115 Market St)

**VIEW LEFT ON CHAPEL HILL ST.**

15. **The Durham Hotel:** New boutique hotel, this mid-century building is a former Home Savings Bank (315 E Chapel Hill St)

**Through This Lens:** Gallery of fine art photography that also offers books, posters, and other items related to photography. (303 E Chapel Hill St)

**Durham Arts Place:** Art studio complex. (305 E Chapel Hill St)

**TURN LEFT ON W PARRISH ST**

16. **City Center:** A 27-story skyscraper, which will be home to condos, retail, and office space, is under construction at the site of the former Durham Woolworth store. In the late 1950s, Rev. Douglas Moore and Floyd McKissick of Durham pioneered the student sit-in movement in several states and trained participants at churches around the community. After national media reported a 1960 sit-in held in nearby Greensboro, Durham protesters began a sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter – the first attended by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (800 W Parrish St)

17. **Historic Parrish Street/Black Wall Street:** Known as America’s Black Wall Street from the 1900s. In the 1960s, the street again attracted national attention as a place where civil rights pioneers staged sit-ins and received a memorable visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Features six public art sculptures marking the significance of Historic Parrish Street. (Parrish St)

18. **Parrish Street Forum:** The Parrish Street Common Room is an interpretive space honoring the legacy of African-American entrepreneurs and businesses that developed America’s Black Wall Street. Located in the original 1908 headquarters of Mechanic and Farmers Bank. (112 W Parrish St)

**The Carrack Modern Art:** The Carrack is a zero-commission gallery that hosts short installations, usually two weeks. (111 W Parrish St)

19. **Orange Street Mall:** Brick walkway named for a 19th-century tobacco brand Orange of Durham. (E Chapel Hill St and W Parrish St)

20. **While Here, See #24 Through Orange St Mall**

**US Postal Service - Downtown:** 1934 neoclassical building paid for in 15 minutes of its first day of operation by taxes on local tobacco. (223 E Chapel Hill St)

21. **Rogers Alley:** Three buildings converted into residential, restaurants, etc., including the 1904 fire station and Wright Building, long known as Roger’s Pharmacy. (Corner of Mangum St & E Parrish St)

22. **Turn Right on City Hall Plaza**

23. **Durham City Hall & City Hall Plaza:** Recognized as a place by the Post Office between 1819 and 1823, Durham gained its current name in 1853, and was incorporated by the state in 1869. (101 City Hall Plz)

**Turn Right on Liberty and Right on N. Church St.**

24. **Trinity United Methodist Church:** T1924 Gothic revival church noted for wood carvings. (215 N Church St)

25. **Turn Left on N Parrish St, Right on Roxboro, and Right on E Main.**

26. **Follow N Roxboro to Extension E or Turn Left on N Roxboro to Continue on to Extension F.**
Former Durham County
Department of Social Services: Established in 1919. The new social services building is at E5. (220 E Main St)

Historic Durham County Courthouse: Renovated 1916 neoclassical revival that replaced the 1887 courthouse that once stood on this site. (200 E Main St)

Former Durham County Judicial Building: Site was once the famous Rialto Theater, poolroom, barbershop, and jazz bar. 201 E Main St)

Celebrate mural by Michael Brown. (108 E Main St)

Kress Building: Built in 1932, one of the largest and most elaborately detailed art deco buildings in North Carolina and the first building in Durham to have air conditioning. Now luxury condos and offices of Greenfire Development. (101 W Main St)

Historic Baldwin Building: 1927 neoclassical building; now home to loft-style apartments and a restaurant. (107 W Main St)

1893 Queen Anne-style building: The oldest building that remains inside the Downtown Loop. (111 W Main St)

“City View” - First National Bank Building: Originally the site of the 1840s home of Durham namesake Dr. Bartlett Durham. Present building is the neoclassical 1914 First National Bank, with notable cast-iron, flower-sagged canopy. (123 W Main St)

21c Museum Hotel: This boutique hotel is home to a museum that is free and open to the public. It’s located in the historic 1935 art deco Hill Building, designed by the same architectural firm that designed the Empire State Building. (111 Corcoran St)

END AT THE VISITOR INFO CENTER

Visitor Info Center (212 W Main St, #101)

EXTENSION A
FROM FROM FOSTER ST AT #12 HEAD NORTH ON FOSTER

Time Bridge mural by Odill Donald Odita on the Downtown Durham YMCA \( (215 W \) Morgan St)

"Pauli Murray and True Community" mural, part of a collaborative art project coordinated by artist Brett Cook. Durhamite Pauli Murray, a noted activist and the first African-American woman Episcopal priest, was sainted by the Episcopal Church. (313 Foster St)

Triangle Biotechnology Center: Former Clark & Sorrell automobile repair garage, built in 1933. On the National Register of Historic Places. (223 Foster St)

Bull City Arts Collaborative Gallery, studio, and home of Horse & Buggy Press. (401-B Foster St)

RIGHT ON SEMINARY

Durham Center for Senior Life
This 44,000 sq.-ft. accessible and comprehensive recreational and health center is a hub for older adults. (406 Rigsbee Ave)

"Flame, Fire, Forge" mural by Emily Weinstein (214 Hunt St)

Durham Central Park
5.8-acre urban park and district namesake with an emphasis on cultural activities, recreation, and locally owned businesses. Includes a skate park and hosts the Durham Craft Market on Saturdays from Apr.-Nov. (302 Foster St)

RIGHT ON FOSTER TO GEER

Durham Farmers’ Market at Central Park Pavilion
Open Saturday mornings weekly and Wednesday afternoons. (Foster St at Hunt St)

The George Watts Hill Pavilion for the Arts
One of only a few large-scale facilities in the Southeast offering mold-making and metal casting to the public. (Hunt St and Foster St, Durham Central Park)

Northern Central Park District
A collection of historic buildings adaptively reused to house new businesses, including an artisan printing shop, restaurants, and retail stories, a theater, and more. At night, this area, including one block east on Geer St at Rigsbee St, is alive with activity from bars, music clubs, food trucks, and a brewery. (Washington, Foster, and Rigsbee Sts between Trinity and Corporation)

RETURN TO CORPORATION ALONG FOSTER HEADING SOUTH; RIGHT ON CORPORATION

Historic Durham Athletic Park
Ranked #3 in the “Top Sports Venues of All Time” by ESPN. Former home (1926-94) of the Durham Bulls, who now play a mile south at Durham Bulls Athletic Park (#95). The movie Bull Durham was filmed here in 1987. (500 W Corporation St)

City Place
The old City Stables, later the City Garage (late 1930s), is now home to new businesses. Both the main building and the former fire drill tower are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (501 Washington St)

Historic BC Headache Powder Factory
Former factory for the popular remedy, invented in Durham in 1906 and made here from 1926-1972. Now home to Measurement Incorporated. Will also house part of the Durham Innovation District, a new redevelopment that will house life science and technology companies. (423 Morris St)

Brodie Duke Building
Restored 1878 tobacco warehouse structure. (333 Liggett St)

Bullington Warehouse
1927 national historic site was the last of the brick tobacco warehouses to be built in Downtown Durham. (500 N Duke St)

LEFT ON N DUKE

Durham School of the Arts
Formed by the historic Durham High and W. F. Carr Junior High campuses and recognized by the Magnet Schools of America for excellence. (400 N Duke St)

LEFT ON FERNWAY

West Village
Original phase of the largest adaptive reuse project in North Carolina’s history. Overall includes 12 former Liggett & Myers tobacco buildings (1.26 million sq. ft.) over several blocks, converted to loft-style apartments, retail space, offices, and the Durham Train Station. (604 Morgan St)

RIGHT ON MORRIS

Former Imperial Tobacco Warehouse
1916 warehouse of Imperial Tobacco Co. Tobacco was shipped here before being shipped to Great Britain. Locker room scenes from Bull Durham were filmed here. (215 Morris St)

EXTENSION B
FROM MAIN ST, CONTINUE ON W MAIN

Durham Train Station
110,000-sq.-ft. adaptive reuse of historic Walker Warehouse, an 1897 Italianate-style brick building, to welcome Durham train passengers. (400 W Chapel Hill St)

RIGHT ON N DUKE

Studebaker Building
Historic Studebaker showroom redeveloped into 23,000 sq.-ft. of office space. (115 N Duke St)

RETURN TO W MAIN ST ALONG N DUKE

Peabody Place
Office and retail complex comprised of a renovated 1927 laundry and a former Nash auto showroom, dating to the 1930s. The unique iron railings are made of materials salvaged from the old laundry. (Main and Duke Sts near Peabody St)

CONTINUE WEST ON W MAIN

Brightleaf Square
1904 Neo-Romanesque brick tobacco warehouses and namesake for the entire district was redeveloped in 1981 and is a popular gathering spot with its central courtyard, shopping, and outdoor dining. (Gregson St at Main St)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: 4 MI FURTHER WEST ON W MAIN

Residence Inn Durham Duke University Medical Area
An extended stay hotel on the site of the 1926 McPherson Hospital. Parts of the eye, ear, nose, and throat hospital have been preserved and incorporated into the hotel structure. (1180 W Main St)

Duke University East Campus
Relocated to Durham in 1892. Trinity College expanded to become Duke University in 1924. This original Duke campus is the home of Baldwin Auditorium and hosted the first basketball game of the Atlantic Coast Conference's famous "Tobacco Road" rivalry, played on March 2, 1906. East Campus follows the shape of a horse track that was located here before 1892. (W Main St at Campus Dr)

HEAD EAST ON W MAIN TO CONTINUE TO EXTENSION C OR TO RETURN TO MAIN ROUTE #7

EXTENSION C
FROM FIVE POINTS, HEAD WEST ON CHAPEL HILL ST
SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN DURHAM

**C1 Durham Station Transportation Center**
Station for GoDurham (formerly Durham Area Transit Authority), GoTriangle (formerly Triangle Transit), and Greyhound/Trailways busses, as well as a taxi hub. (Chapel Hill and Willard Sts)

**C2 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company**
Founded in 1898, this is one of the largest and oldest African American-owned corporations in the country. (411 W Chapel Hill St)

**C3 City of Durham Police Headquarters**
(505 W Chapel Hill St)

**C4 Duke Memorial United Methodist Church**

**D1 Old Bull Building**
1874 Italianate-style brick tobacco warehouse, one of the nation’s oldest, restored as apartments. (201 W Pettigrew St)

**D2 Durham Performing Arts Center**
A 2,800-seat, state-of-the-art performing arts theater, the largest in the Carolinas, with the largest stage between Washington DC and Atlanta. (123 Vivian St)

**D3 Diamond View I, II, & III**
Office buildings that overlook Durham Bulls Athletic Park. (512 S Mangum St)

**D4 American Tobacco**
The former Lucky Strike cigarette factory and national historic site has been revitalized. Includes an amphitheater, a man-made waterway, the iconic Lucky Strike smokestack, and a courtyard, all of which are viewable to the public. Includes several restaurants, businesses, and a 10,000-sq.-ft. event space. (324 Blackwell St)

**D5 Durham Bulls Athletic Park**
The City’s 10,000-seat home for the 2009 Triple-A national champion Durham Bulls, arguably the nation’s most famous minor league baseball team. Ranked fourth on Minor League News’ list of “Top Ten Minor League Stadiums in the US” (409 Blackwell St)

**E1 Old Salvation Army Building**
The 1928 former home of the Durham Sun newspaper, featuring elegant façades with molded copper window frames. (300 block of E Main St)

**E2 First Presbyterian Church**
1916 building stands on the site of two previous churches built in 1875 and 1890. German stained glass windows. (305 E Main St)

**E3 Old Public Library**
1921 colonial revival building designed by the architect of historic Ellis Island. (311 E Main St)

**E4 St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**
Congregation dates from 1878 and meets in this 1907 Gothic revival building. (403 E Main St)

**E5 Durham County Human Services Complex**
Houses the county’s social services, public health, and mental health departments. Built with a number of sustainable features in compliance with LEED Gold certification. (414 E Main St)

**E6 Golden Belt**
Historic textile mill and national historic site transformed into apartments, galleries, artists’ studios, offices, and event space. (807 E Main St)

**E7 Cordoba Center for the Arts**
Historic textile mill now home to non-profit arts organizations, including Liberty Arts (923 Franklin St)

**E8 Venable Center**
Built in 1905 for the Venable Tobacco Company, now home to biotechnology companies. Scenes from the 1996 thriller Kiss the Girls were filmed inside this national historic site. (300 block of E Pettigrew St)

**E9 Durham County Courthouse and Justice Center**
Courthouse and offices sit adjacent to the Durham County Detention Center immediately to the south. At nearly 300,000 sq. ft. and 11 stories tall, it also has a 900-car parking deck.

**F1 Durham County Library**
The first free, tax-supported library in North Carolina, founded in 1898, now has more than 470,000 volumes in nine branches. (300 N Roxboro St)

**F2 WTVD, Channel 11 (ABC)**
Founded in 1954, it is the market’s oldest continuous television broadcaster. Notable alumni include musician John Tesh, former Good Morning America co-host David Hartman, and Durham-born songwriter John D. Loudermilk. (411 Liberty St)

**F3 Holloway Street Historic District**
On the National Register of Historic Places; includes houses from the 19th and early 20th centuries, such as the Blooming Garden Inn. (Holloway St between Dillard and Railroad Sts)

For other publications and information on the great things to see and do in Durham, speak with a friendly information specialist at the Durham Visitor Info Center at 212 W Main St in Downtown Durham. (919) 687-0288 or (800) 446-8604. Summer Hours: M 9am-5pm, T-Th 9am-6pm, F 9am-7pm, Sa 10am-7pm, Su 12-5pm. Winter Hours: M 9am-5pm, T-F, 9am-6pm, Sa 10am-6pm, closed Sunday.

Or visit www.durham-nc.com, the official Durham website for visitors and newcomers, featuring searchable listings, event calendar, maps, live chat, and more.