



## Fun things to do in **Charlotte**

- 1 Adding to the idyllic lanes of **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden**, the Orchid Conservatory touts rare treasures blooming year-round. The glasshouse is home to a tropical refuge with waterfalls that flow into water lily sprinkled pools and orchids spanning every color of the rainbow. [dsbg.org](http://dsbg.org)
- 2 A renovation has taken **Discovery Place**, one of Charlotte's most beloved and visited museums, to new heights. Innovative hands-on activities and interactive exhibits such as a digital 3-D theatre, a larger aquarium, and new science lab stations are among the engaging features to intrigue visitors of all ages. [discoveryplace.org](http://discoveryplace.org)
- 3 At the **Bechtler Museum of Modern Art**, an astounding collection of mid-20th century modern art makes its North American debut. The terra cotta tiled structure on South Tryon is a work of art itself filled with gems by notables such as Picasso, Calder, Warhol, and more. [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org)
- 4 Injecting some high octane energy into Charlotte's already substantial auto-racing roots, the **NASCAR Hall of Fame** touts a feast for the senses to honor its heroes. Look for interactive exhibits like racing simulators and pit crew experiences in addition to unforgettable tributes to NASCAR's legends. A 275-seat Full Throttle Theater, dozens of monumental stockcars, and an on-site Buffalo Wild Wings also add to this not-to-be-missed thrill ride. [nascarhall.com](http://nascarhall.com)
- 5 Charlotte offers up some of the best designer labels this side of Manhattan. Sophisticated style resides in **South Park** where you can find couture courtesy of Kate Spade or Michael Kors. Meanwhile, destinations like the outlet-filled **Concord Mills** offer deals as far as the eye can see. And neighborhoods like **Dilworth** and **Myers Park** have a mixed bag of one-of-a-kind finds along bungalow-shaded streets. [charlottesgotalot.com/shopping](http://charlottesgotalot.com/shopping)
- 6 North Carolina ranks an impressive 10th in the nation's wine production. Savor the fruits of the region's labor at many area wineries, which make for a convenient day trip, or uncork some fun with a tour courtesy of **Yadkin Valley Wine Tours**. [yadkinvalleywinetours.com](http://yadkinvalleywinetours.com)
- 7 The Southeast's tallest, fastest, and longest roller coaster joins the menacing roster at **Carowinds**. The Intimidator, named for Dale Earnhardt, stands 23 stories tall and top speeds in excess of 75mph. Also new in 2010, Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the Peanuts gang make their way to Planet Snoopy, giving kids the chance to get up close and personal with their favorites from Charles Shultz's classic comic strip. [carowinds.com](http://carowinds.com)
- 8 There's never been a better time to battle the Class III-IV rapids at the **U.S. National Whitewater Center**. An 1,100 foot Mega Zip, eco-caching, climbing walls, hiking and biking trails, and the Southern-influenced River's Edge Bar and Grill round out this outdoorsman's paradise. [usnwc.org](http://usnwc.org)
- 9 One of Charlotte's skinniest landmarks at just 45 feet wide, this architectural marvel packs a powerful punch with works by prominent African-Americans. Exhibitions by Radcliffe Bailey and Juan Logan will be on display in addition to The Hewitt Collection with pieces by Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, and more. Look for an ever-changing line-up of oratory, concerts, and lectures too. [ganttcenter.org](http://ganttcenter.org)
- 10 **The Billy Graham Library** combines iconic memorabilia and multimedia technology to transport visitors into the life and faith of this beloved evangelist. Don't forget to say hello to Bessie, the facility's animatronics bovine, who tells tales from Graham's childhood. A country kitchen and replica of Graham's boyhood home complete this not-to-be-missed experience. [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org)