

Shopping

Love to shop? You'll find yourself at home in Charlotte. With everything from upscale to antique to bargain shopping, Charlotte is continuously expanding its retail space and drawing shoppers from across the region. Whether you're looking for a Louis Vuitton handbag, unique Victorian jewelry or just a good deal on a new suit, Charlotte has what you're looking for.

The most exclusive mall in Charlotte is **SouthPark** at the corner of Sharon and Fairview roads. Anchored by Hecht's, Nordstrom, Dillard's and Belk, SouthPark houses numerous specialty shops and several high-end retailers including Burberry, Kate Spade and Louis Vuitton. In fall of 2006, SouthPark welcomes another exclusive tenant: Neiman Marcus.

Other posh shopping centers in the area include **Specialty Shops on the Park** behind SouthPark mall and Phillips Place on Fairview Road, characterized by cobblestone walkways, upscale restaurants, galleries, jewelers and a salon.

Concord Mills, opened in 1999, draws mall enthusiasts from across the region to its 1.4 million square feet of shopping and entertainment. Packed with a number of outlet stores like Polo Ralph Lauren, Nike, Osh Kosh B'Gosh, Saks Fifth Avenue and Ann Taylor, Concord Mills boasts more than 200 stores, a 24-screen movie theater, restaurants and Jillian's, with a dance club, hibachi grill, four bars, billiards and a bowling alley. Located about a mile from Lowe's Motor Speedway, Concord Mills also draws visitors to its NASCAR SpeedPark, which features six racing tracks, miniature golf, kiddie rides, laser tag, an arcade and a rock climbing wall. About 15.3 million people flock to Concord Mills each year, making it the top tourist attraction in the state.

The University area is bursting with shopping centers, but none as aesthetic as the **Shoppes at University Place** off W.T. Harris Boulevard. Set around a small lake, the Shoppes at University Place also includes a two-mile walking trail. In addition to big-box retailers Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Dick's Sporting Goods, the Shoppes at University Place are home to more than 80 stores and restaurants, many of which offer a spectacular view of the lake.

Birkdale Village, a mixed-use development of shops, apartments, restaurants and offices, occupies more than 700,000 square feet in Huntersville. With an old-time Main Street and park benches, Birkdale Village includes a Banana Republic, Gymboree, Jones New York, Williams-Sonoma, Pier 1, salons and a 16-screen movie theater.

In fall of 2005, **Northlake Mall** opened to much fanfare at the intersection of I-77 and W.T. Harris, serving North Mecklenburg and the booming Lake Norman area. With more than 150 shops and restaurants, the new mall is anchored by Belk, Dillard's, Hecht's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Borders and a 14-screen movie theater.

In Pineville, **Carolina Place Mall** is extremely popular, drawing South Charlotteans to its more than 140 specialty shops that include American Eagle, Ann Taylor, Abercrombie & Fitch and Gap. Near the I-485/N.C. 51 interchange, Carolina Place is anchored by Dillard's, Hecht's, Belk, JCPenney and Sears. Across N.C. 51, the Centrum offers big-box retailers Best Buy and Kmart.

Just up I-485 at N.C. 49, **Ayrsley** is a new mixed-use development of retail, office and residential space with specialty shops and restaurants. Nearby, Whitehall Commons is a new shopping center with 585,000 square feet that includes Super Wal-Mart and Lowe's.

Since 1975, East Charlotte has been home to **Eastland Mall**. Located on Central Avenue between Sharon Amity and Albemarle roads, Eastland houses Sears, Dillard's and Belk in addition to sports shops and jewelers. One of Eastland's biggest attractions is its ice skating rink on the bottom floor, where shoppers can watch public skating, hockey games and the occasional figure skater spin on the ice.

Distinctive shops are popping up all over Charlotte's historic mill villages, **SouthEnd** and **NoDa**. Known for their galleries and renovated mills, both areas offer unique clothing stores and restaurants. Another popular stop is **Waxhaw** in Union County, with more than 20 antique shops in its historic downtown district.

Antique lovers will also enjoy the **Metrolina Expo**, a trade center that hosts a monthly Antique & Collectible Show, which attracts avid collectors from across the Southeast.

A number of shopping centers outside of Charlotte also provide excellent shopping ventures. **Eastridge Mall**



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in Gastonia is anchored by Dillard's, JCPenney, Sears and Belk and includes more than 75 specialty stores. Monroe Mall in Monroe and the Manchester Village in Rock Hill are also quite popular with the growing suburban crowd. In Fort Mill, Baxter Town Center and Village Shops is a mixed-use development of parks, restaurants, shops and offices with a public library, elementary schools and a YMCA.

About 45 minutes southwest of Charlotte via I-85, the **Prime Outlets** in Gaffney, features more than 80 outlet stores including Banana Republic, Polo Ralph Lauren, Bass, Pottery Barn, Nautica, Nine West and Jones New York.

Because of its abundance of manufacturers, North Carolina is one of the best places in the country to buy furniture. About an hour from Charlotte, the **Hickory Furniture Mart** in Hickory offers domestic and imported furniture and home furnishings from more than 100 factory stores, outlets and galleries, and features more than 1,000 lines.

Area Shopping Centers

Ayrsley

N.C. 49 at I-485
Charlotte, NC 28273
704-643-4148
www.ayrsley.com

Baxter Town Center and Village Shops

1030 Assembly Drive
Fort Mill, SC 29708
877-570-4663
www.villageofbaxter.com

Birkdale Village

8712 Townley Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-895-8744
www.birkdalevillage.net

Carolina Place Mall

11025 Carolina Place Parkway
Pineville, NC 28134
704-543-9300
www.carolinaplace.com

Concord Mills

8111 Concord Mills Boulevard
Concord, NC 28207
704-979-5000
www.concordmills.com

Eastland Mall

5471 Central Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-1263
www.eastlandmall.com

Eastridge Mall

246 N. New Hope Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-871-4800

Hickory Furniture Mart

2220 Hwy 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
800-462-MART
www.hickoryfurniture.com

Metrolina Expo

7100 Statesville Road
Charlotte, NC 28269
704-596-4650
www.metrolinaexpotradeshows.com

Monroe Mall

2115 W. Roosevelt Boulevard
Monroe, NC 28110
704-289-6547
<http://monroe.mallfinder.com>

Northlake Mall

6801 Northlake Mall Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216
704-921-2005
www.shopnorthlake.com

Phillips Place

Cameron Valley Parkway at Fairview Road
Charlotte, NC 28210

Prime Outlets - Gaffney

1 Factory Shops Boulevard
Gaffney, SC 29341
888-545-7194
www.primeoutlets.com

Rock Hill Galleria

2301 Dave Lyle Boulevard
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-324-1711
www.rockhillgalleria.com

SouthPark Mall

4400 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-364-4411
www.southpark.com

Shoppes at University Place

8929 J.M. Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262
704-549-4811
www.shoppesatuniversityplace.com

Specialty Shops on the Park

Morrison Boulevard at Roxborough Road
Charlotte, NC

Whitehall Commons

N.C. 49 at I-485
Charlotte, NC

