



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA AREA INFORMATION

The City of Charlottesville is located in west Central Virginia, approximately 100 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. and 70 miles northwest of Richmond, Virginia. Situated within the upper Piedmont Plateau, at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and at the headwaters of the Rivanna River, Charlottesville was established as a town in 1762 by the Virginia General Assembly, and was incorporated as an independent city in 1888. Colloquially known as C'ville and officially named the City of Charlottesville, it is the county seat of Albemarle County, which surrounds the city.

Many historic attractions bring visitors to the city, such as Monticello, the grounds of the University of Virginia, James Monroe's Highland, and Historic Court Square. Each has played a unique role in the history of the nation, and their tours, special events, and educational programs ensure that the spirits of the past remains vibrant today.

Overview

- [Official website](#)
- [Visitors website](#)
- [Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#) - offers a wide variety of youth and adult programs
- [Area Hospitals](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- Population was 48,019 as of 2017



Transportation

By Car

Most residents have a car, especially for weekend road trips. Charlottesville is well served by major highway systems and is located in central Virginia, approximately two hours from Washington, DC or Richmond, VA by car.



Public Transportation

[Charlottesville Area Transit \(CAT\)](#), the City's public bus system, serves the City of Charlottesville and portions of Albemarle County. For bus schedules and route information, please visit www.CatchTheCAT.org



By Bike

Bicycling is green and it's stress-free! Charlottesville is expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network.

- [Bike Trails](#) in the area

By Air

The closest airport to Charlottesville is the [Charlottesville/Albemarle Regional Airport](#), located 10 miles (13 km) north of the city. In addition, the [Richmond Airport](#) is about one hour away and [Dulles International](#) and [Reagan National](#) airports, located in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., area respectively, are about two hours away.

By Train

[Amtrak's](#) Cardinal, Crescent and Northeast Regional all connect Charlottesville to major US cities across the country.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the US public-school system is determined by the age of the child. School districts are usually very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the deadline requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability, and contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public Schools

Public schools in Charlottesville are operated by the [Charlottesville Public School System](#), with extraordinary fine arts, the latest STEM technologies, a computer for every student, and more.

Private Schools

Charlottesville also has 21 [private schools](#), some attended by students from Albemarle County and surrounding areas:

- [Charlottesville Waldorf School](#)
- [Renaissance School](#)
- [St. Anne's-Belfield School](#) (Greenway Rise campus)
- [Village School](#)
- [International School of Charlottesville](#)
- [Peabody School](#)
- [Charlottesville Catholic School](#)
- [The Covenant School](#)
- [Tandem Friends School](#)

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Colleges/Universities in the area

- [University of Virginia](#)



University of Virginia

Area Recreation

Charlottesville's rich cultural, natural, and artistic history is showcased in a selection of first-rate museums, galleries, wineries, shops, and parks dispersed throughout the area.

Attractions, Culture and Museums

- [Historic Court Square](#)
- [Downtown Mall](#), one of the longest outdoor pedestrian malls in the nation
- [Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia](#)
- [Thomas Jefferson's Monticello](#) - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- [James Monroe's Highland](#) - a historic plantation
- [Virginia Discovery Museum](#)
- [Paramount Theater](#) hosts various events, including Broadway shows
- [Charlottesville's community theater](#)
- [Farmers Markets](#)
- [Visitors Bureau](#)



Monticello

Festivals

- [Charlottesville's Grand Illumination](#) – signature holiday event in Charlottesville
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Area Sports

Charlottesville has no professional sports teams, but is home to the University of Virginia's athletic teams, the Cavaliers, who have a wide fan base throughout the region.

The Great Outdoors

Spectacular scenery and championship courses designed by some of the industry's top architects create a winning combination for golfers.

Gorgeous rolling hills surround the area as it is close to [Shenandoah Valley](#), [Shenandoah National Park](#), [Blue Ridge Parkway](#), and [Skyline Drive](#).

Dozens of hiking opportunities of all levels exist around Charlottesville. The Rivanna Trail is a 20 mile trail circling Charlottesville. [Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center](#) in Darden Towe Park educates visitors about the historic expedition and has nice wooded trails. The [Monticello Trail](#) includes the beautiful landscapes of Nelson County and Albemarle County.



Registration

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you have an out-of-state or out-of-country license, you may use it for as long as you maintain your residency in the state where it was issued. International licenses are not recognized in Virginia. If you are moving permanently to Virginia, you may use your out-of-state license for only your first 60 days.

To change to a Virginia license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and two utility or phone bills verifying that you are a Virginia resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.