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ABC's of Raleigh

Great cities have an energy all their own – a spirit that sets them apart. You are invited to explore the Greater Raleigh area district-by-district, city-by-city, everything and everywhere from **A to Z**.

Tap into the Raleigh area's irresistible blend of big-city entertainment and Carolina charm without the big-city hassle. Come discover why this award-winning city is one of the most enticing places the south has to offer.

A – Art. A permanent collection of more than 5,000 works of art spanning from antiquity to the present day make up the bulk of masterpieces you'll find at the new **N.C. Museum of Art**. Spend the afternoon exploring the 164-acres of woodlands, open areas and walking trails, complimented by monumental works of art or spread out on the lawn with a picnic and take in a film or concert at the museum's outdoor amphitheatre.

B – Bed and Breakfast. Return to a simpler time by escaping to the peace and charm of the historic **Oakwood Inn** or **Cameron Park Inn**. Guests can relax with an early morning coffee and newspaper or have afternoon tea. Cameron Village and downtown Raleigh's various attractions are located within walking distance of both inns.

C – Capitol Building. The **N.C. State Capitol**, built between 1833 and 1840, is one of the best preserved examples of Greek Revival style architecture. The building offers free tours and events scheduled throughout the year.

D – Dinosaurs. The **N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences** can claim to have the world's most complete Acrocanthosaurus dinosaur and Willo, the first dinosaur discovered with a fossilized heart. The permanent exhibits of the Museum look at the natural world of North Carolina from its mountains to its coast. Examine Willo, the world's only dinosaur with a fossilized heart and on of the finest displays of great whale skeletons the world has to offer.

E – Eat! When you talk about restaurants, you've got to start with some Carolina favorites. Sweet tea, mouth-watering barbecue, home-style vegetables, all brought to you with warm Southern service with Raleigh dining. Yet we're getting more and more famous for our big-city eateries, too. Italian bistros, Pan-Asian delights, Mediterranean wonders and spicy, irresistible Jamaican dishes. Those are just the first course of what our 500-plus restaurants have to offer.

F – Five Points. In this "town in a city" old tradition mingles with new vitality. This ordinary place is known for its antiques and is home to some of the most unique restaurants and shops around. Five Points encourages a cozy combination of working, living and playing. The area earned its name from the five residential neighborhoods that connect at the center of town; it's a residential crossroads, but the feeling of unity and sense of place is unprecedented here.

G – Glenwood South. Burgeoning with eclectic restaurants and spirited nightlife, this corner of town attracts the young and hip. Raleigh's trendiest district defines what it means to live for weekends—early evenings find families strolling along the main strip, but by nightfall this district surrenders to a street party. The night air is charged with energy, and live music spills out of bars and gives Glenwood Avenue a soundtrack uniquely its own.

H – Higher Education. Greater Raleigh is home to nine major institutions of higher learning, five of which date back to the 19th century: Peace College (1857), Shaw University (1865), Saint Augustine's College (1868), N.C. State University (1887), Meredith College (1891), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1956), Wake Technical Community College (1958) and two recent additions – Campbell Law School and The Chef's Academy. The academic resources set within a vibrant, forward-thinking city means there are plenty of professional opportunities as well— Raleigh was recently named one of the top places for business and careers by *Forbes* magazine.

I – IMAX. Visit the **Wachovia IMAX Theatre**, NC's only full-screen 3D IMAX theatre. This theatre provides a medium to introduce new places, new people and new ideas to visitors of all ages.

J – Joel Lane Museum House. The Joel Lane House was built in the early 1770's for "The Father of Raleigh" who facilitated the location and creation of the permanent North Carolina capital city. His faithfully-restored plantation manor was once deemed "The Best House for 100 Miles."

K – Kids, Kids, Kids! A hands-on interactive museum that inspires children to pretend, use their imagination, be curious, try out their creativity and simply have fun! Visit **Marbles Kids Museum** where an otherwise ordinary day will become an extraordinary adventure! **Adventure Landing** offers kids the area's best place to play with three miniature golf courses, speedway go-karts, extreme laser tag and more. Ride on the train

at **Pullen Park** or on a horse at **Dead Broke Farm**. With Raleigh's many kid friendly attractions children are sure to find something they love.

L – Lodging. Pamper yourself at one of the area's luxury hotels, choose the dependable comfort of your favorite hotel chain or indulge in the quiet charm of a local bed and breakfast, Greater Raleigh has more than 130 hotel options designed with your comfort and budget expectations in mind.

M – Meetings. From its easy access and low-cost airlines to its abundant recreation, golf and greenways Raleigh offers an ideal setting for your company's next big meeting. Mix business with pleasure by networking at Raleigh's over 500 restaurants and bars, 40 galleries and four museums downtown. The Silver LEED Certified Raleigh Convention Center provides business travelers with more than 500,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space.

N – Night Life. What kind of city ranks among the top of America's Best Place for Singles, Cities That Rock and Best Small Concert Venues? Experience five pulsing entertainment districts, a staggering array of live music venues and visiting performers, and world-class performing facilities for the arts. However you define fun and entertainment, the area nightlife offers the perfect activity to match your special interests.

O – Oakwood. A historic neighborhood of lovingly-restored Victorian and early 20th-century homes in a great variety of styles and sizes, many with beautiful gardens, bordered by Person, Franklin, Watauga, Linden and Edenton Streets. This 30-block area may be enjoyed by driving or walking.

P – Performing Arts Visit us and enjoy the nationally acclaimed Carolina Ballet, America's next great orchestra (**North Carolina Symphony**) the region's top professional theatre (**North Carolina Theatre**) and Broadway productions (**Broadway Series South**). All these larger art centers are bolstered by a thriving community of smaller galleries, events, collections and independent performances.

Q – Quaint. Raleigh offers a variety of charming settings to take your special someone for a one-of-a-kind, romantic weekend in Raleigh. Catch the sunset over the lake before heading back to the hotel to dress for dinner at **Second Empire**. Take a carriage ride and see your favorite Broadway show. A weekend of precious memories awaits you.

R – Renaissance. Grand opening – a word you've heard often in the past few years. Raleigh has experienced a **\$3 billion renaissance** with several projects transforming Raleigh into a premiere event destination for entertainment, learning and technology in the Southeast including the Raleigh Convention Center located in the heart of downtown, NC Museum of Art, Contemporary Art Museum and the Green Square Project.

S – Sports. Calling all sports fans! Although the area is known for its college basketball rivalries, three professional sports teams call Greater Raleigh home: Carolina Hurricanes (NHL hockey), Carolina Mudcats (AA baseball), Carolina RailHawks (USL-1 Soccer). You can cheer for one of your favorite sports teams year round.

T – Tee Up. Whether you're the next Tiger Woods or simply seeking an escape and rejuvenation, there's certainly a course, driving range or putting green in Greater Raleigh to match your level of expertise. No matter how you choose to play, you'll find many exciting options in the Raleigh area - the gateway to the Home of American Golf in nearby Pinehurst.

U – Umstead Hotel and Spa. As the first full service hotel in North Carolina to receive AAA's coveted "Five Diamond Award" and a member of Leading Hotels of the World and Leading Spas of the World, The Umstead Hotel and Spa offers unparalleled luxury in an environment that expresses an appreciation for the arts and embraces the wonders of nature.

V – Visitors Center. For more information on attractions, accommodations, restaurants and events visitors can stop by our newly opened Visitors Center located in the corridor between the Raleigh Convention Center and The Raleigh Marriott City Center Hotel on Fayetteville Street.

W – Walking. What better way to see Raleigh's historic sites than a self-guided walking tour? Just take our map and directions with you and you'll see over 60 of the historic and new sites and features in downtown Raleigh.

X – Sign on the X. Malls, retail areas, and shopping centers complete the decadent area shopping scene. From the major department stores of **Triangle Town Center**, **Crabtree Valley Mall** and **Cary Towne Center** to the exclusive shops and boutiques of **Cameron Village** and **North Hills**, you can enjoy spectacular shopping in any part of the city.

Y – Yesteryear. Take a journey into the past at the **North Carolina Museum of History**. While visiting Boston in the early 1880s, Raleigh *News and Observer* publisher Samuel A'Court Ashe marveled at that city's past. Everywhere he looked he saw its story. After returning home, Ashe began an editorial campaign to encourage the saving of North Carolina's history so that others, natives and visitors, could learn of the lives our ancestors lived.

Z – Zest. Defined in the dictionary as piquancy; interest; charm; liveliness or energy; animating spirit. Zest says it all. Greater Raleigh offers old-world charm in combination with a vivacious nightlife. Its spirit will capture your heart and spark your imagination. What are you waiting for? Make your reservations today!

