

FROM YOUR CITY TO OURS

Your Raleigh & Cary Relocation Guide

Discover how life in the Triangle compares to 10 major U.S. metro areas, from homes and neighborhoods to dining, entertainment, outdoor adventures, and more.

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WELCOME TO YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

What If Your Next Move Could Change More Than Your Address?

Imagine finding a place where you love your home, enjoy your weekends, and feel connected to your community.

Maybe you're dreaming of a little more space. Maybe a new career opportunity is bringing you to North Carolina. Or perhaps you're simply ready for something different.

Whatever your reason, moving to a new city comes with one big question: Will I love living there as much as I love the things about where I live now? That's exactly what this guide is designed to help you discover.

A Little About the Triangle

Raleigh, Cary, and the surrounding communities offer a combination of beautiful neighborhoods, growing employment opportunities, restaurants, entertainment, parks, and outdoor recreation.

You'll find everything from the energy of Downtown Raleigh to the inviting atmosphere of Downtown Cary, along with established neighborhoods, newer communities, and charming nearby towns.

And with North Carolina's beaches and mountains within reach for weekend getaways, there's always somewhere new to explore.

Let's See How Your City Compares

We've selected 10 major metropolitan areas and highlighted some of the things residents love most about them.

Then we'll show you where to find similar experiences in the Triangle, what you might gain by moving here, and a few things worth knowing before you pack.

Think of it as a preview of your potential new lifestyle. Ready to picture yourself here? Let's take a look.

1. NEW YORK CITY



New York City Living



Triangle Living

Big-City Culture. A Little More Room to Breathe.

Imagine trading a busy Saturday morning for coffee on your own front porch, followed by an afternoon exploring downtown Raleigh and dinner at an acclaimed restaurant. In the Triangle, you can enjoy a thriving cultural scene while discovering neighborhoods with a completely different sense of space.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- A Celebrated Food Scene: Raleigh chef Ashley Christensen won the James Beard Award for Outstanding Chef. Her restaurant Poole's Diner is among the region's nationally recognized dining destinations.
- Broadway Without the Big-City Rush: Durham Performing Arts Center, known as DPAC, welcomes major touring Broadway productions, concerts, and comedy performances.
- Distinctive Neighborhoods: Explore Raleigh's historic Oakwood district, Cary's established communities, and walkable destinations like Downtown Cary Park.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Picture a home with a dedicated office, a backyard for entertaining, or a quiet patio surrounded by mature trees. Having a car makes it easy to discover the Triangle's neighborhoods, restaurants, and attractions on your own schedule.

You'll enjoy much milder winters than New York, with beautiful spring weather and colorful autumns. For longer weekends, the Atlantic coast and Blue Ridge Mountains offer two entirely different escapes.

Picture Yourself Here: A home with room to make memories, nationally recognized dining, Broadway entertainment, and exciting places to discover. Raleigh and Cary offer a fresh way to enjoy the things you already love.

2. WASHINGTON, DC



Washington, DC Living



Triangle Living

Where Career Opportunities Meet Everyday Enjoyment.

Imagine working in one of the country's leading research regions, then spending your evening walking a neighborhood greenway or meeting friends for dinner in Downtown Cary.

Raleigh and Cary offer a blend of professional opportunity, established communities, and activities that make it easy to enjoy your time outside the office.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- **Research Triangle Park:** One of the nation's best-known research parks, RTP is home to companies working in technology, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, and other innovative industries.
- **A Connected University Community:** Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State contribute to the region's talent, research, cultural events, and educational opportunities.
- **Unexpected Cultural Destinations:** The North Carolina Museum of Art combines galleries with an expansive outdoor park, while the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences offers fascinating exhibits in downtown Raleigh.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Explore established Cary neighborhoods, Raleigh's historic districts, and nearby communities such as Apex and Morrisville. Parks, greenways, local restaurants, and community events create plenty of ways to spend an afternoon.

You'll enjoy milder winters with less snow than Washington, DC, making outdoor activities appealing throughout much of the year. Beach weekends and mountain getaways are also within reach.

Picture Yourself Here: Innovative employers, excellent universities, cultural attractions, and neighborhoods with plenty of character. The Triangle offers opportunities to build both a career and a fulfilling life.

3. LOS ANGELES



Los Angeles Living



Triangle Living

Outdoor Living With a Whole New Backdrop.

Imagine summer concerts beneath the trees, afternoons on a peaceful lake, and autumn weekends surrounded by colorful foliage.

Raleigh and Cary offer plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors, along with an entertainment scene that might surprise someone relocating from Southern California.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- **Concerts Under the Stars:** Cary's Koka Booth Amphitheatre hosts performances in a beautiful wooded setting, while the region welcomes major touring artists and productions.
- **Lakeside Weekends:** Jordan Lake offers boating, paddling, fishing, and waterfront recreation, with several public access areas to explore.
- **A Creative Community:** Raleigh's Warehouse District, local galleries, festivals, and the arts scene in nearby Durham offer a wide range of cultural experiences.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Imagine hosting friends on a screened porch, gardening in your backyard, or spending a Sunday exploring a local farmers market. The Triangle offers a variety of homes designed for indoor and outdoor living.

One of the biggest changes is experiencing four distinct seasons. Spring brings flowering trees, autumn transforms the landscape, and winters are generally mild. The Atlantic coast and Blue Ridge Mountains add even more variety to weekend adventures.

Picture Yourself Here: Outdoor concerts, beautiful lakes, a thriving arts scene, and a home where you can make the most of every season.

4. BOSTON



Boston Living



Triangle Living

Historic Charm. Much Milder Winters.

Imagine strolling through a historic neighborhood on a sunny winter afternoon, enjoying dinner at a locally owned restaurant, and cheering on a professional hockey team that calls Raleigh home.

The Triangle has its own strong traditions, and many of them will feel familiar to someone who appreciates Boston's history, universities, and sports culture.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- A Passion for Hockey: The Carolina Hurricanes bring NHL action to Raleigh, with an enthusiastic fan base and an exciting atmosphere on game nights.
- Legendary College Rivalries: Duke, UNC, and NC State make college basketball a major part of the region's identity, with traditions that span generations.
- Historic Neighborhoods: Explore Raleigh's Oakwood and Boylan Heights neighborhoods, known for their distinctive architecture and established residential character.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Imagine living on a tree-lined street near neighborhood parks, independent restaurants, and community events. Explore historic homes, newer communities, and everything in between.

You'll still enjoy beautiful autumn foliage and four distinct seasons, but with much milder winters and significantly less snow than Boston. That means more opportunities for golf, walking, and outdoor recreation throughout the year.

For a change of scenery, enjoy a coastal weekend in Wilmington or a mountain getaway around Asheville.

Picture Yourself Here: Historic neighborhoods, unforgettable sports traditions, nationally known universities, and a climate that makes outdoor living appealing.

5. CHARLOTTE



Charlotte Living



Triangle Living

Discover a Different Side of North Carolina.

You're already familiar with North Carolina's Southern hospitality, changing seasons, and natural beauty. But the Triangle offers a different personality, shaped by three major universities, a research-driven economy, and a collection of distinctive downtowns. Moving from Charlotte means discovering new possibilities without leaving the state you already love.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- The Research Triangle: Duke, UNC, NC State, and Research Triangle Park help define the region's economy, bringing together education, medicine, technology, and scientific research.
- Downtown Cary's Transformation: Downtown Cary Park has become a major gathering place, with gardens, public art, play areas, community events, and nearby restaurants.
- A Different Sports Tradition: The Carolina Hurricanes bring NHL hockey to Raleigh, while Durham Bulls baseball and ACC basketball provide entertainment throughout the year.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Spend a weekend exploring downtown Apex, strolling through Cary, or discovering Raleigh's historic neighborhoods. Each community has its own character, local businesses, and events.

You'll continue enjoying North Carolina's colorful autumns, flowering springs, and generally mild winters. From the Triangle, coastal destinations such as Wrightsville Beach are closer than they are from Charlotte, making beach weekends especially appealing. The Blue Ridge Mountains remain a wonderful getaway.

Picture Yourself Here: Familiar North Carolina hospitality, new communities to explore, outstanding universities, and an exciting mix of sports, culture, and innovation.

6. SEATTLE



Seattle Living



Triangle Living

Innovation, Coffee, and More Winter Sunshine.

Imagine beginning your morning with a beautifully crafted latte, heading out for a walk beneath towering trees, and spending the afternoon exploring a lively downtown.

Raleigh and Cary share Seattle's appreciation for technology, independent coffee shops, and outdoor recreation, with a different climate and a distinctly Southern personality.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- A Growing Technology Community: Research Triangle Park is a major center for technology and life sciences, supported by nearby universities and a strong research network.
- Coffee Worth Discovering: Black & White Coffee Roasters, founded in Wake Forest, has helped put the Triangle on the specialty coffee map. Local cafés such as Jubala add to the area's coffee culture.
- Miles of Greenways: The American Tobacco Trail stretches through several Triangle communities, offering a paved and unpaved route for walking, running, and cycling.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Explore wooded neighborhoods, local farmers markets, and communities with convenient access to parks and trails. A home with a screened porch or backyard garden can make outdoor living part of your everyday routine.

Raleigh enjoys considerably more winter sunshine than Seattle, along with flowering springs, colorful autumns, and generally mild winters. When you want a change of scenery, North Carolina's beaches and Blue Ridge Mountains offer memorable weekend escapes.

Picture Yourself Here: An innovative economy, excellent local coffee, beautiful trails, and more sunny days to enjoy everything the region has to offer.

7. CHICAGO



Chicago Living



Triangle Living

Big Sports Traditions. Much Milder Winters.

Imagine a February afternoon when you're comfortable taking a walk outside, followed by dinner with friends and an exciting hockey game.

Raleigh and Cary offer an active sports and entertainment scene, with a climate that makes enjoying the outdoors possible throughout much more of the year.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- Professional Hockey: The Carolina Hurricanes give hockey fans a hometown NHL team, complete with enthusiastic crowds and memorable game-night traditions.
- Baseball in Durham: The Durham Bulls play at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, where the downtown skyline and nearby American Tobacco Campus add to the experience.
- A Food Scene With Personality: From Ashley Christensen's celebrated Poole's Diner to the restaurants and breweries of downtown Durham, the Triangle offers plenty of places worth discovering.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Imagine a home with a backyard for summer cookouts, a nearby walking trail, or a neighborhood park where you can spend a sunny afternoon.

You'll enjoy much milder winters and considerably less snow than Chicago, with more opportunities to golf, hike, and dine outdoors. Spring flowers and colorful autumn foliage make the changing seasons especially beautiful.

For a different kind of waterfront weekend, explore North Carolina's Atlantic beaches. Or head west to the Blue Ridge Mountains for hiking and scenic drives.

Picture Yourself Here: NHL hockey, baseball, a distinctive restaurant scene, and more opportunities to spend time outdoors. Raleigh and Cary offer an exciting new setting for the things you enjoy.

8. SAN FRANCISCO



San Francisco Living



Triangle Living

A New Innovation Hub. A New Kind of Neighborhood.

Imagine working in a thriving technology region, then heading home to a neighborhood where you can enjoy an evening on your screened porch or walk along a wooded trail.

Raleigh and Cary offer a different setting for innovation, with a variety of communities and home styles to explore.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- Research and Entrepreneurship: Research Triangle Park and NC State's Centennial Campus connect businesses, researchers, and universities across technology, engineering, and life sciences.
- An International Community: The Triangle's universities and global employers contribute to a diverse cultural scene, with international markets, festivals, and restaurants.
- A Growing Downtown Scene: Raleigh's Warehouse District combines contemporary development with historic industrial buildings, restaurants, galleries, and the Contemporary Art Museum.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Imagine exploring homes with dedicated offices, spacious kitchens, outdoor entertaining areas, or wooded surroundings. From established Cary neighborhoods to newer communities around Raleigh, there's a wide variety of living environments to discover.

North Carolina brings four distinct seasons, including flowering springs, colorful autumns, and generally mild winters. Beach towns along the Atlantic and mountain communities in the Blue Ridge offer two very different weekend experiences.

Picture Yourself Here: Technology, entrepreneurship, international influences, and distinctive neighborhoods, with plenty of opportunities to create a home that suits your next chapter.

9. ATLANTA



Atlanta Living



Triangle Living

Southern Hospitality With a Distinctive Local Flavor.

Imagine spending Saturday morning at a farmers market, enjoying lunch in a charming downtown district, and relaxing in a beautiful park before heading home.

Raleigh and Cary offer many of the Southern traditions you already love, along with a different collection of neighborhoods, attractions, and local experiences.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- Charming Downtown Districts: Downtown Cary, Apex, and Holly Springs offer their own mix of restaurants, locally owned businesses, public spaces, and community events.
- A Beautiful Garden Destination: The JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State features an extraordinary collection of plants and gardens, with seasonal color throughout the year.
- A Major Research Region: Research Triangle Park, Duke, UNC, and NC State help support a diverse economy with strong connections to technology, healthcare, and life sciences.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Picture an established neighborhood with mature trees, a nearby greenway, and local restaurants and shops just a short drive away. The Triangle's individual towns offer plenty of opportunities to find a community that feels like home.

You'll enjoy the familiar Southern climate, with colorful springs, long outdoor seasons, and beautiful autumn foliage. And from the Triangle, Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach make appealing coastal getaways, while the Blue Ridge Mountains offer scenic weekends to the west.

Picture Yourself Here: Charming downtowns, beautiful gardens, welcoming communities, and a thriving research economy. Raleigh and Cary offer a fresh take on Southern living.

10. PHOENIX



Phoenix Living



Triangle Living

Discover a Greener Side of Outdoor Living.

Imagine waking up to flowering trees in spring, spending summer afternoons beside a lake, and watching the leaves turn brilliant shades of red and gold in autumn.

For someone moving from Phoenix, the Triangle offers a completely different natural landscape, with forests, lakes, gardens, and four distinct seasons.

What Makes the Triangle Special

- Forests and Hiking Trails: William B. Umstead State Park offers thousands of acres of woodland between Raleigh and Cary, with trails for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.
- Lakes and Waterfront Recreation: Jordan Lake and Falls Lake provide opportunities for boating, kayaking, fishing, camping, and enjoying the water.
- Beautiful Golf Courses: Lonnie Poole Golf Course in Raleigh and the region's many public and private courses make golf a popular activity across the Triangle.

A Lifestyle Worth Exploring

Imagine a home surrounded by mature trees, a backyard filled with flowering plants, or a screened porch where you can enjoy the sounds of nature.

North Carolina's seasonal changes are a major attraction. Spring brings blooming dogwoods and azaleas, summer fills the landscape with greenery, and autumn offers spectacular foliage. Winters are generally mild, with occasional opportunities to see snow.

For weekend adventures, head east to the Atlantic coast or west to the Blue Ridge Mountains for waterfalls, hiking, and mountain scenery.

Picture Yourself Here: Lush green neighborhoods, beautiful lakes, golf, wooded trails, and four colorful seasons. Raleigh and Cary offer a wonderful new landscape to call home.

Can You Picture Yourself Living Here?

Maybe it's a home with a bigger backyard. Maybe it's discovering a new favorite restaurant, spending weekends exploring the outdoors, or finding a community that feels like the perfect fit.

Whatever you're looking for, the Raleigh and Cary area offers plenty of possibilities. And finding the right home starts with finding the right place to live.

Let's Find Your Place in the Triangle

At Linda Trevor & Co., we've helped countless individuals and families relocate to Raleigh, Cary, and the surrounding communities.

We understand that moving to a new area can feel overwhelming, especially when you're trying to choose a neighborhood from hundreds of miles away.

That's where our local expertise makes a difference. Our team can help you explore communities, understand the housing market, discover local amenities, and find homes that fit your lifestyle and budget.

Whether you're just beginning to consider a move or you're ready to start looking, we'd love to help you discover what life in the Triangle could look like.

Your next chapter is waiting. Let's find the perfect place to begin.

