

Charlotte Transportation

Bus Service TO THE AIRPORT

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) offers an **Airport Sprinter bus** to and from the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and Uptown Charlotte. Transit time each way is between 25 and 35 minutes, depending on traffic density. **The signs on buses both ways are marked “Sprinter to Airport.”**



The fare for this airport-uptown express bus route is **\$1.75 each way**. You can catch the Sprinter every 20 minutes during weekdays and every 30 minutes during nights and weekends. The bus schedule can be viewed by clicking on the link: <http://wirelesscats.ridetransit.org/BusSchedules/mnt/pf.asp?p=Wel5&sk=XXwf5i2boA3jDw6>

The Airport Sprinter bus is a true airport shuttle-type of vehicle, made especially for transport to and from an airport. Seating is arranged to accommodate fewer passengers per trip, which leaves plenty of room for luggage inside the bus.

To go **FROM UPTOWN, TO THE AIRPORT**, the **Airport Sprinter bus stop** closest to the NCCTO is found at the Charlotte Transportation Center on East Trade Street, between Brevard and College Streets. This uptown bus stop with its turquoise arched roof is **2 short blocks from the NCCTO**.

- To catch the Airport Sprinter from the NCCTO in **nice weather**:
 - Go to first floor BB&T lobby, exit building, and turn LEFT onto South College Street
 - Cross East 4th Street; cross South College Street
 - Proceed along East 4th Street on left side of street as you head away from BB&T/NCCTO
 - Turn LEFT at South Brevard Street, just past the turquoise-roofed terminal
 - Look for green Airport Sprinter bus stop sign at mid-block on South Brevard Street and wait for bus

- To catch the Airport Sprinter from the NCCTO in **inclement weather**:
 - Go to first floor BB&T lobby, exit building, and turn LEFT onto South College Street
 - Cross East 4th Street; cross South College Street
 - Proceed along East 4th Street on left side of street as you head away from BB&T/NCCTO
 - Get under the large turquoise arched bus terminal roof as soon as possible



- Walk through terminal toward far side, heading for **CONCESSIONS** between “R” and “S” bus bays
- Enter CONCESSIONS doors; go straight through waiting area to South Brevard Street
- Look for green Airport Sprinter bus stop sign out on the street (South Brevard Street) and watch for bus from inside terminal; visibility and proximity are excellent; bus typically parks at this stop for awhile before departing



Airport Sprinter at bus stop at main uptown bus terminal

Bojangles' and Subway restaurants can be found in this indoor section of the bus terminal. Burger King and China Shuttle Restaurants are outdoors in the main terminal, under the large turquoise terminal roof. If you need to stop to buy snacks for your flight, or other incidentals, they can be found at Plaza Sundries, also under the main terminal roof.

Another **Airport Sprinter bus stop, FROM UPTOWN, TO THE AIRPORT**, can be found 4 blocks from the BB&T/NCCTO at the intersection of North Church Street and West Trade Street. The bus picks up passengers right in front of the First Presbyterian Church, at the small aqua-topped bus stop on West Trade Street. This bus stop is convenient to those travelers who are leaving Charlotte from the western-most side of uptown. To catch the Sprinter at this stop:

- Go to first floor BB&T lobby, exit building, and turn LEFT onto South College Street
- Cross East 4th Street and turn LEFT; continue on East 4th Street for 2 blocks
- Turn RIGHT at South Church Street; continue on South Church for 1 block until West Trade Street
- Cross West Trade Street and turn LEFT; cross North Church Street (north/south designation changes at Trade Street)
- Step over to arch-top covered bus stop on West Trade Street in front of church and wait for bus





When you take the Airport Sprinter bus **FROM UPTOWN TO THE AIRPORT** as you prepare to fly out of Charlotte, the bus will drop you off on the **lower** (baggage) level of the airport terminal (as shown in the picture to the left). To proceed to check-in, luggage drop-off, and security, take one of the many escalators/ elevators to the **upper** level (ticketing/departure) and find your airline section. As always when flying, allow plenty of time for transportation to the airport and for pre-flight procedures. (This bus stop also serves as the pick-up point for travelers leaving the airport and going to Uptown Charlotte.)

*Dual-purpose Airport Sprinter **bus stop** at the airport for pick-up and drop-off, **TO** and **FROM** airport and uptown*

Bus Service **TO UPTOWN CHARLOTTE**

The **ONLY** bus stop at the airport where you can catch the bus **FROM THE AIRPORT, TO UPTOWN**, can be found outside the main terminal center at the airport, **on the baggage claim level** (the **lower** level), right outside the **Zone D doors** (as shown in pictures above and below). Travelers arriving at the airport from the uptown area via the Airport Sprinter are dropped off at this same stop.

When you fly to Charlotte, as you disembark from the plane you will enter the airport on the **upper** level. This is one floor above the Airport Sprinter bus stop.



To find this bus stop after getting off of the plane:

- Follow signs toward **BAGGAGE CLAIM** in the airport terminal
- Go **down** escalator or elevator to baggage claim area (on the **lower** level)
- Gather your bags, if you checked any
- Locate **Zone D** in the baggage claim area and exit terminal through the Zone D doors
- Cross one set of slow-moving airport traffic lanes (under concrete ceiling)
- Turn **RIGHT** at wide median **between the two sets** of slow-moving airport traffic lanes (one set under concrete ceiling, one out in the open)
- Look for **arch-top SPRINTER bus stop** on the median (pictured above, left side) and the **CATS bus schedule sign** (above, right) just past **EMPLOYEE TRANSPORTATION** waiting area

- After the 25- to 35-minute bus ride from the airport to Uptown Charlotte, the bus driver will announce the final two stops. The stop pictured below shows the **Omni Hotel bus stop** on East 4th Street between Tryon and South College Streets. This stop is convenient to some hotels, is 1 block from the NCCTO, and provides immediate access to the **Overstreet Mall**, which is useful in foul weather. Other hotels are better accessed from the LAST stop, which is the **main CATS terminal bus stop** on East 4th Street between South College and South Brevard Streets.



Airport Taxi Service

After you **fly in to Charlotte**, taxi service is available curbside at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, on the Baggage Claim level (**lower level**). As you disembark from the plane, whether or not you checked luggage:

- You will enter airport on the **upper level** (departure/ticketing)
- Follow **BAGGAGE CLAIM** signs and go down escalator to **lower level**
- Claim your checked luggage, if any
- Exit terminal to find many parked cabs waiting for travelers

An attendant is on duty from 6:45 a.m. - 12:15 a.m. The trip for up to 2 people from the airport to the uptown area is \$25. Each additional person is an extra \$2.

As you prepare to **fly out of Charlotte**, you will find that hotels maintain a supply of cabs near their front lobbies, to be hailed by hotel staff when guests need a ride to the airport.

Trolley Service

These rubber-wheeled, uptown-only trolleys resemble historic streetcars and follow two very limited uptown routes. The Orange Line proceeds up and down Tryon Street while the Red Line runs back and forth along Trade Street. The Gold Rush trolleys stop at the regular marked bus stops along Trade and Tryon Streets at eight- and fifteen-minute frequencies from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. **Rides are free.** For more information, call (704) 336-RIDE.

