

"Scouting Report"
Charlotte, NC
Bill Camp
March 16-18, 2006

Transportation details from the airport:

- Taxi (For more than 2 people traveling together, you will probably find the taxi to be cheaper than the shuttle.)
 - Taxi is flat rate of \$21 for 1-2 people. \$2 for each person over 2.
 - Go to Taxi dispatcher at ground transportation next to luggage claim
 - For over 2-3 people, ask for a van. Cost is the same but you have to specifically request a van. Those are kept in a waiting area on the airport grounds rather than in the pickup line at the dispatch booth.
- Shuttle
 - Gold Line Express, Dial 99 at Visitor Kiosk near baggage claim
 - Queens Transportation, Dial 58 at Visitor Kiosk near baggage claim
 - Altos Transportation, Dial 704-591-3055
 - Carolina Transportation, Dial 704-391-1111
- The trip will take about 15 minutes in light traffic. Plan on a few minutes longer for rush hour.
- If you drive, hotel parking is available at \$12/day for self parking or \$20/day for valet parking. Pull into the Omni motor entrance area and the parking facility is directly in front of you after you unload. Register your car at the desk to get a parking card. Exits and returns are unlimited. For driving directions, go to <http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/Charlotte/MapAndDirections.aspx> .

The hotel:

- The Omni has free wireless Internet connectivity in the guest rooms. From my room, I booted up, opened my browser, and clicked "agree" on the Omni page that came up and the connection was almost instant. The connection was quite reliable at 11 mbps. If your computer lack wireless capability, the hotel has USB wireless devices available (I think there is a charge for these).
- The rooms are quite nice and have all of the usual amenities (hair dryer, coffee maker, iron & board).
- The hotel has an excellent exercise facility and outdoor pool free for guests.
- From the hotel lobby, take the escalator down to the ground level to a mini-mall with an assortment of shops including Starbucks, Einstein Bagels, a wine shop, a mini-department store, and several less expensive eateries. All are within a 1-minute walk from the hotel lobby and are inside the hotel building.

The area:

- For shopping, at the bottom of the escalator turn left and you can walk through a covered overpass to Overstreet Mall or turn right and you can walk through another covered overpass to the Shops at Founder's Square. Both have upscale and boutique style stores and both are within 3-4 minute walks.
- You will find several excellent restaurants within a block of the hotel.
- The streets are clean and appear safe; I saw many pedestrians and joggers in the evening when I went to dinner. The area is clearly upscale and seems quite safe.
- I believe that you will find everything you need for a 3-5 day stay within easy walking distance of the hotel.

Suggestions for recreation:

- The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit is at Discovery Place, 2 blocks from the Omni. You can find schedules and purchase tickets at <http://www.discoverscrolls.org/tickets.html>.
- In the hotel lobby is the entrance to a full service fitness center with steam rooms and an amazing array of exercise equipment. The Omni will issue you a 1-day pass to the fitness center and bill your room \$10.00 per day. The web site is www.corefitnessclubs.net and on that site is an offer for a free 1-day pass. I am sure my wife will spend several hours in this every day while our meetings are going on. It is a very nice fitness center.
- The Mint Museum of Craft and Design is one block from the Omni. See www.mintmuseum.org.
- The Levine Museum of the New South is a 5-10 minute walk. See www.museumofthenewsouth.org.