

# A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown

A visit to Belmont almost always includes a relaxing stop in beautiful **Stowe Park**, site of many annual festivals and outdoor concerts. The park is also home to the famous eight-foot, zinc World War II sculpture “**The Spirit of the Fighting Yank.**”



Begin your tour walking south on Main Street with a stop at **Mugshots Coffee & Tea** where you can enjoy a cup of deliciousness.

Walking north of **Stowe Park's** sparkling fountain – which is lit in brilliant colors at night – you can discover great places to eat just across the street: **Sammy's Neighborhood Pub** and **Old Stone Steakhouse**. Old Stone is located in the former Belmont Police Department and Jail.

You'll begin to smell the coffee and the cake as you continue walking north by **Brenda's Cake Gallery** and **Caravan Coffee & Dessert Bar**, where Belmont residents gather from early morning until late at night to sip salted caramel lattes and relax.

Next door, note the location of **William Henry Salon & Spa**, where you can be pampered all day or just get your hair cut.

Belmont embraces the trains that cross Main St. You'll often find spectators watching the train zoom on by throughout the day. And the city's former **Belmont Depot**? It still retains its historic charm, now home to **South Main Cycles**. If you're a bicycle buff – beginner or professional – you'll want to take a quick detour to this local shop. Thursday thru Sunday from 5 p.m. until late, **Station**, offers beer, wine, cider, soda and great pub food after a long ride or just a long day.

One of the newest shops in town is **Belmont's Specialty Foods**. They have a wide variety of foods; pastas, babkas, oils, cheeses, already prepared meals, local and international foods. Stop in to see this quaint, one of kind store.

Have a sweet tooth? Be sure to visit **Cotton Candy Factory** where you can spin your own cotton candy! There are plenty of sweet treats for everyone.

For a delicious breakfast or lunch, **Cherubs Café** is the place to be. You will see angels hard at work.

If you are ready for a true taste of nostalgia, step inside **Belmont General Store** in the historic **Stowe Mercantile Building**. From sweet treats and soaps to hardware and southern jams, you'll find a little bit of everything at this town treasure.

**Gigi's Boutique and Fine Consignment** is the perfect way to add some flair to your closet. They offer consigned and new clothing for women and girls.

**Happy Dog Café & Boutique** is sure to convince you that Belmont is a pet-friendly town. If your timing is right, you may even be able to enjoy “Yappy Hour.”

Along the corner of Main and Catawba, discover **Nellie's Southern Kitchen**, a locally sourced, fresh-ingredient southern restaurant inspired by grandmother and matriarch Nellie of the famed Jonas Brothers family.

Across Main Street is **LunaHombre**, a wine and tapas bar that puts a focus on international flavors with a robust menu of cheese, charcuterie and small plates.

Nearby, **Jolie Boutique** can help fit any wardrobe with the finest in women's clothing.



**S**itting in a former U.S. Post Office is our beautiful **Belmont City Hall**, which holds a special place in the history of our town. The Mayor lights the city's Christmas tree during a ceremony on its steps each December, and we sing Christmas carols and sip hot cider with friends and neighbors.



**P**ause for a moment on the corner by our town clock — across the street, by Nellie's — and read about our **Belmont Historical Society's Cultural Learning Center**, just a block to your right on Catawba Street. It's open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. In one of Belmont's oldest homes, the center is filled with Belmont history.

**C**rossing Catawba Street and continuing north on Main, the building on your right is home to **String Bean**, a delicious place for lunch or dinner. Be sure to check out the multi-year award-winning wine and beer selection. Or stop into **Johnny B's Pizza Pad & Watering Hole** just next door for a slice of pizza with the family.

**A**cross the street, in a beautifully restored historic Belmont home, is **Blythe Gallery**, filled with spectacular antiques and gorgeous home furnishings.

**C**ontinue on Main Street to **Piccolo Antique Mall** with more than 20,000 square feet packed with unique antiques, art, gifts and fascinating products.

**A**t the end of the block, be sure to visit **Surprise Me** and check out their wide variety of unique gifts.

**W**ant a snack as you continue perusing the streets of Belmont? Just across East Woodrow Avenue, say hello to the folks at **Tastebuds Popcorn** and choose from more than 200 flavors of tasty popcorn treats.

**F**or the exercise enthusiast, **Walk and Run Belmont** will fit you for the perfect shoes—whether you're an experienced runner or just starting your Couch to 5K training.

**T**hat's the short tour of Historic Downtown Belmont Main Street. But we have lots more to see here. A 10-minute drive south on Main Street (turn left at New Hope Road) and you'll be at our world-class **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden** with its five-story orchid conservatory and hundreds of acres of gardens and fountains.



**L**ess than a mile north on Main Street is the campus of **Belmont Abbey College**, with a Benedictine monastery and the 115-year-old Abbey Basilica.

**A**nd along the banks of the Catawba River, find North Carolina's first rum distillery, **Muddy River**, as well as the city's newest gem, **Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park** with picnic shelters, a playground, a walkout dock and dock swings for watching kayakers or teams from Belmont Rowing.



**L**earn more about **Belmont** and all it has to offer at [www.visitbelmontnc.org](http://www.visitbelmontnc.org).