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A Primer for Northern Transplants



I'm a native New Yorker, born and bred. I always will be, regardless of where I live. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, I spent several years in Los Angeles, where there are tons of New Yorkers, but I couldn't have felt less at home. I hated the superficiality. Then a confluence of circumstances led me to Charlotte, North Carolina—about as far from subway fumes and neighborhood delis as you can get.

I admit, it was an adjustment for me. But after living in the South for more than a decade, I've become accustomed to Southern sensibilities. I've stopped lamenting what's missing here and now appreciate what *can* be found. It took some work to assimilate, but I've learned to live harmoniously among the blooming trees, Sunday church traffic, and love of bacon. You can, too, by keeping the following tips in mind.

1. Religion Matters



Try not to look shocked when you see people praying before they eat, offering to pray for you, and praising Jesus at every opportunity. *God, family, work*. This is the proper order. The longer I'm here, the more sense it makes to me. You may even find the abundance of true faith to be inspiring and uplifting—regardless of what religion you are or aren't.

2. Don't Be Fooled by the Accent