



THE WAKE COUNTY CITY GUIDES

THE PEAK OF GOOD LIVING

APEX CITY GUIDE

A small-town downtown with big-town convenience, and a name with a story.

History, neighborhoods, taxes, favorite spots, and the honest stuff locals wish they'd known. Everything you need to decide if Apex is your place.



~80K

Residents, up from about 59,000 in 2020

\$609,995

Median sale price, August 2026

0.9106

2026 combined tax rate per \$100
(Wake County + Town)

Rich Burghgraef, REALTOR®

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Get Rich in Real Estate!

RICH'S TAKE

Why people fall for Apex

Apex has something a lot of fast-growing towns wish they had: a real downtown. Salem Street looks a lot like it did a hundred years ago, with brick storefronts, a train depot, and trains still rolling through.

Around it, Apex has grown into one of the most popular towns in the Triangle, with newer neighborhoods, greenways, Jordan Lake nearby, and NC-540 putting RTP within easy reach.

People who love Apex usually want **small-town charm with modern convenience**: a place to walk to a festival on Saturday and still get to work easily on Monday.

Rich Burghgraef



WHO?

How Apex got its name

The town sits at the highest point on the old Chatham Railroad between Richmond and Jacksonville. Trains stopped at the "apex of the grade," and the name stuck. It's also why the town calls itself the Peak City.

Apex in six moments

1854

A railroad station is chartered here, though the first train won't come through until 1869.

1873

Apex is incorporated as a one-square-mile town, and H.C. Olive is elected its first mayor.

1911

Fire destroys most of downtown. Salem Street is rebuilt with brick storefronts.

1914

The Apex Union Depot is rebuilt. Today it's home to the Apex Chamber of Commerce.

1994

Downtown Apex is designated a historic district.

Today

Once one square mile, Apex has grown to roughly 80,000 residents.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

Six true facts to impress your new neighbors

TOP

Named for the high point

Apex was the highest point on the Chatham Railroad line between Richmond, Virginia and Jacksonville, Florida. That's where the name comes from.

2

A street that splits the rain

Rain that falls on one side of Salem Street flows to the Neuse River. Rain on the other side flows to the Cape Fear.

Log

Its first name

Before it was Apex, the area around the depot was known as Log Pond.

Pond

1 sq

Small for a long time

Apex was exactly one square mile at incorporation in 1873, and its boundary didn't change until 1960.

mi

1911

Rebuilt in brick

A June 1911 fire destroyed most of downtown. It was rebuilt, and today it's one of the most intact railroad towns in the state.

#1

Best place to live

Money Magazine named Apex the #1 Best Place to Live in America in 2015.

Local favorites

SPRING

PeakFest

Apex's big spring street festival takes over downtown with artists, food, music, and crowds.

OUTDOORS

Jordan Lake

Just west of town, with beaches, boating, fishing, camping, and famously good bald eagle spotting.

OUTDOORS

Beaver Creek Greenway

A paved trail that connects neighborhoods, parks, and schools across north Apex.

EVERY DAY

Trains downtown

Freight trains still roll right through historic downtown Apex. Locals barely notice; kids love it.

WHERE TO LIVE

Apex neighborhoods at a glance

Apex was one square mile until 1960, so almost everything outside the historic downtown has been built in the last few decades. Here's the lay of the land.

HISTORIC

Downtown & Salem Street

Restored brick storefronts, older homes on tree-lined streets, and the Union Depot at the center of it all.

Walkable Historic Shops & dining

CONVENIENT

Beaver Creek & North Apex

Close to Beaver Creek Commons shopping, the Beaver Creek Greenway, and quick access to US-64 and NC-540.

Shopping Greenway Near NC-540

ESTABLISHED

Central Apex neighborhoods

1990s and 2000s subdivisions with mature trees, neighborhood pools, and short drives downtown.

Established Pools Near downtown

WEST APEX

Olive Chapel & Jordan Lake side

Newer homes, larger lots, and easy access to Jordan Lake and the Apex Nature Park.

Larger lots Newer homes Near the lake

SOUTH APEX

Friendship & the growing south side

A historic crossroads community surrounded by new construction and new amenities.

New construction Growing Space

CHATHAM SIDE

Western Apex in Chatham County

Part of Apex sits in Chatham County. Same town services, different county tax rate.

New construction Chatham County Space

RICH'S TIP

Part of Apex sits in Chatham County, where the county tax rate is higher than Wake's. Same town, same services, different tax bill. I'll always tell you which county a home is in before you fall for it.

Quick match: which Apex sounds like you?

Want to walk to dinner?

Look near downtown and Salem Street.

Want shopping close by?

North Apex near Beaver Creek.

Love the water?

West Apex puts Jordan Lake minutes away.

Want brand new?

South Apex and the Chatham side.

LIVING HERE

The practical stuff

\$609,995

Median sale price, Aug 2026

\$240

Median sold price per square foot

19 days

Median days on market

~\$4,118

Est. 2026 taxes on a \$450K home in Wake, incl. \$20 fee

THE MONEY

Property taxes

In Wake County: 0.5371 county plus 0.3735 town = 0.9106 per \$100 for 2026. On the Chatham County side: 0.60 county plus 0.3735 town = 0.9735. Vehicles are taxed annually too.

ROADS & TRANSIT

Getting around

US-1/US-64, NC-55, and the NC-540 Triangle Expressway (a toll road) connect Apex to Raleigh, Cary, and RTP. Most people drive.

WHO TO CALL

Utilities

Water, sewer, trash, and recycling: Town of Apex.
Electric: Town of Apex Electric in much of town, Duke Energy in some areas. Natural gas: Enbridge Gas North Carolina.

HOW IT WORKS

Schools

Most of Apex is served by the Wake County Public School System, and homes on the Chatham side are in Chatham County Schools. Always check the official address lookup for any home you're considering.

What locals wish they'd known

The honest bit

- ✗ Growth is fast. Check what's planned near any home you love.
- ✗ NC-55 and US-1 back up at rush hour, and NC-540 is a toll road.
- ✗ Downtown is walkable, most neighborhoods are car-first.
- ✗ Your electric provider depends on your address, so ask before you buy.

Thinking of selling in Apex?

- ♥ Well-priced Apex homes are still moving, with a 19-day median.
- ♥ See what you'd walk away with using my free Seller Net Sheet calculator.
- ♥ Ask me for a Customized Pricing & Strategy Report.

Median price, price per square foot, and days on market for Apex from Doorify MLS (August 2026). Tax rates from Wake County Tax Administration and Chatham County (2026). Population from the 2020 Census and 2025 estimates.

LOVING IT HERE

How Apex spends a Saturday

DOWNTOWN

Historic downtown

Salem Street's shops, restaurants, and the Union Depot, all in a walkable few blocks.

PARKS

Apex Nature Park

Trails, sports fields, a dog park, and open space on the west side of town.

OUTDOORS

Jordan Lake

Swim beaches, boat ramps, and trails just minutes west of Apex.

SHOPPING

Beaver Creek

Shopping, dining, and a movie theater, plus the greenway nearby.

A perfect Saturday in Apex

MORNING Coffee at Rich's pick, then a stroll down Salem Street and past the Union Depot.

MIDDAY Lunch downtown, then browse the local shops.

AFTERNOON Head to Jordan Lake for a swim, a paddle, or an eagle-spotting walk.

EVENING Dinner back downtown at Rich's pick, and maybe a freight train rolling by.

Rich's Picks

Coffee

Rich to add

Dinner

Rich to add

Outdoors

Rich to add

THINKING ABOUT APEX?

Let's find your peak in Apex.

Historic downtown, near the lake, or brand new on the south side. I'll help you figure out which Apex fits your life, and then find the home.

We do it RIGHT the first time, in every corner of Apex.

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**SCAN TO BOOK
AN APEX
STRATEGY CALL**



Figures as of September 2026 and subject to change. Neighborhood descriptions reflect housing and amenities, not the people who live there. Confirm school assignment and tax details for any address. Rich Burghgraef Realty Powered by LPT Realty.



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