

SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT / BASEBALL ROAD TRIP

Organized and Directed by Bennett Jacobstein
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Date: July 14 – 17, 2017
Ballparks visited: 4 (brand new Atlanta Braves ballpark plus three top-ten rated minor league ballparks)
Scrabble tournament: 16 games
Starting location: Atlanta GA
Ending location: Durham NC (14 miles to Raleigh airport)
Hotels: Residence Inns (this allows for the Scrabble games to be played in one of our suites)
Group size: 8
Cost: \$575 includes 5 nights lodging in 2-bedroom/2-bathroom suites, game tickets, transportation by van, and \$50 tournamentt entry fee.

Thursday, July 13

Night at Residence Inn Cumberland/Galleria, Atlanta GA (.3 miles from SunTrust Park)

Evening Viewing of the movie *Bull Durham*

Friday, July 14

Night at Residence Inn Cumberland/Galleria, Atlanta GA

9 AM-1 PM Scrabble games 1-4

Lunch

2:30-4:30 PM Scrabble games 5-6

7:35 PM Arizona Diamondbacks vs Atlanta Braves at SunTrust Park
Matt Kemp bobblehead giveaway plus fireworks night

Opening in 2017, SunTrust Park has a seating capacity of 41,500 with a higher percentage of seats closer to the field than any other MLB ballpark. It features a 90-ft roof atop the structure and air-conditioned concourses to keep fans cool during the summer. It is built into the gently sloping terrain of the site with trees separating parking on the home plate side of the facility. Most fans will enter through outfield entrances where restaurants and shops are located.

Saturday, July 15

Night at Residence Inn Biltmore, Asheville NC (1 miles from McCormick Park)

9 AM – NOON Scrabble games 7-9

Check out of Atlanta hotel

Drive to Asheville NC (approximately 3 ½ hours)

6:05 PM Augusta GreenJackets (Class A affiliate of San Francisco Giants)
vs Asheville Tourists (Class A affiliate of Colorado Rockies)
at McCormick Field

Navy and jade jersey giveaway

*Rated #7 best minor league park in America by **USA Today**.*

McCormick Field sits on a section of level ground partway up one of the city's hills, providing a picturesque atmosphere. The park features an amusing scoreboard which reads "Visitors" in the guest slot and "Tourists" in the home slot. It is the oldest minor-league park in regular use.

Sunday, July 16

Night at Residence Inn Uptown, Charlotte NC (adjacent to BB&T Ballpark)

9 AM - NOON Scrabble games 10-12

Check out of Asheville hotel

Drive to Charlotte NC (approximately 2 ¼ hours)

5:05 PM Gwinnett Braves (Class AAA affiliate of Atlanta Braves)
vs Charlotte Knights (Class AAA affiliate of Chicago White Sox)
at BB&T Ballpark

*Rated #1 best minor league ballpark in America by **Baseball America** magazine.*

Building the best ballpark in the minor leagues came with a challenge that likely isn't obvious to fans strolling the concourse or admiring the stunning skyline view at Charlotte's BB&T Ballpark.

The International League's newest stadium, which debuted in 2014, had to be shoehorned into a tight, two-block footprint in downtown Charlotte and face northeast in order for the city's skyscrapers to seemingly rise from the outfield fence. As a result, less room was available for the third-base side of the ballpark.

The architectural team removed about 20 feet of width on the third-base concourse and compensated by creating a festival-style atmosphere with food carts instead of traditional concession booths. The layout also left less room on the playing field for right

field, where the fence is just 315 feet from home plate but features a higher wall to compensate.

Monday, July 17

Night at Residence Inn Durham Research Triangle Park, in Durham NC (6.9 miles from Durham Bulls Athletic Park)

9 AM – 1 PM Scrabble games 13-16
Check out of Charlotte hotel
Drive to Durham NC (approximately 2 ¼ hours)

7:05 PM Indianapolis Indians (Class AAA affiliate of Pittsburgh Pirates)
 vs Durham Bulls (Class AAA affiliate of Tampa Bay Rays)
 at Durham Bulls Athletic Park

*Rated #7 best minor league ballpark in America by **Baseball America** magazine and location of the classic baseball movie **Bull Durham**.*

A \$22 million upgrade before the start of the 2014 season helped bring one of minor league baseball's classic ballparks up to modern standards. The snorting bull atop the Blue Monster left-field wall remains, but recent improvements include an oversized videoboard, a widened wraparound concourse that eases congestion on busy nights, a giant club area behind home plate (which pushed radio announcers down the first-base line—a move they begrudge), and an expanded menu of in-house concessions and local beer options.