



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Mr. T in DC

# Charleston Where to Stay Guide

## Charleston (SC), 7 Days

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# Guide Description

**AUTHOR NOTE:** The South Carolina Low Country is filled with so many great hotels, inns and bed and breakfasts, that it's hard to pick out the 10 best hotels in Charleston. Although you have your standard budget hotels spread throughout the area, the city is known for its beautiful bed and breakfasts and historic hotels. Charleston has established itself as a melting pot of many historic buildings and mansions that have been converted into bed and breakfasts. Get outside of the city itself and you'll find several luxurious resort hotels that are located on the Atlantic Ocean.

Although Charleston is one of the largest cities on the southeast coastline, you still won't find many high rise hotels. This doesn't mean however, that you won't find plenty of luxurious accommodations in Charleston. Hotels that were once historic buildings or mansions are spread throughout the city and provide the same luxurious experience you would expect from a New York City hotel. Yet for a true southern hospitality experience, consider one of the many well-appointed bed and breakfasts. Although you may expect to pay a little more for a historic downtown Charleston hotel or bed and breakfast, there are some real gems in the area.

# My List

**contact:**

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/south-carolina-folly-beach-watersedgeinn-page.html>

**location:**

79 West 2nd Street  
Folly Beach SC 29439

## 1 Waters Edge Inn at Folly Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** Secluded in a lush tropical setting and located minutes from Charleston, South Carolina, Water's Edge Inn boasts eight beautifully appointed guest rooms feature Heavenly queen size beds with Egyptian cotton sheets and down comforters, plasma flat screen television, sound machine clock radios with iPod docking ports, wireless internet and telephone and fireplaces. Individual mini refrigerators with complimentary bottled water and other beverages of your choice can be tailored to your individual wishes. The pristine beaches of the Atlantic Ocean are just two short blocks away and guests are welcome to use our bicycless or our shuttle service for quick and easy access. After returning, rinse off under our outdoor shower and wrap yourself in a luxurious robe provided for your use and enjoy the relaxation of our large, outdoor hot tub overlooking the marsh. Complimentary cocktails and lite hors d'oeuvres are available daily from 4-7pm/



more at [BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 800 253 6720  
<http://www.colorfulplaces.com/bluegreen-resorts/the-lodge-alley-inn-charleston-sc>

**location:**

195 E Bay St  
Charleston SC 29401-2740

## 2 The Lodge Alley Inn

**DESCRIPTION:** The Lodge Alley Inn invites you to step back in time and discover a collection of 18th-century warehouses, carefully restored to let their history shine through. Start your Charleston vacation with a historic walking tour or arrange for a horse-drawn carriage ride. After a day of world-class golf or shopping, treat your appetite to old-fashioned recipes and Southern seafood! This Charleston landmark displays some stunning features: original pine floors and red brick walls, thick Oriental carpets, period reproductions and intimate parlors with fireplaces. The Inn offers one- and two-bedroom suites, studios, one-bedroom lofts, and standard one-bedroom accommodations. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



[Hotels.com](http://Hotels.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 722 0600  
fax: +1 843 853 2186  
<http://www.francismarioncharleston.com/>

**location:**

387 King St  
Charleston SC 29403-6404

## 3 Francis Marion Hotel

**DESCRIPTION:** A \$14-million award-winning restoration has returned this historic hotel to its original elegance. Although the 12-story structure breaks from the standard Charleston decorative motif and has rooms furnished in traditional European style, it is not devoid of Charleston charm. Guest rooms feature a king-size, queen-size, or double bed, and the renovated bathrooms contain tub/shower combinations with brass fixtures. The hotel's restaurant, **Swamp Fox Restaurant & Bar**, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and features classic Southern cuisine. © [Frommer's](http://Frommer's)



[wcities](http://wcities)

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 723 7322  
http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/south-carolina-charleston-twomeetingstreetinn.html

**location:**

2 Meeting Street  
Charleston SC 29401

**4 Two Meeting Street Inn**

**DESCRIPTION:** Charleston's Oldest and Most Elegant Inn!! The beautiful Queen Anne mansion, given as a wedding present and completed in 1892, has welcomed guests for over 70 years. Filled with family antiques, oriental rugs, and heirloom accessories, the INN offers the finest in the Charleston tradition. Exquisite Tiffany stained glass windows and intricately carved oak paneling throughout, give the INN a mellow ambience. Beautiful arched piazzas with rocking chairs, provide complete relaxation and a panoramic view of the Historic Battery and waterfront.



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 888 853 8439  
fax: 843/853-4034  
http://harbourviewcharleston.com

**location:**

2 Vendue Range  
Charleston SC 29401-2114

**5 Harbour View Inn**

**DESCRIPTION:** Spruced up and looking better than ever, this four-story inn lies in the heart of Charleston, across from the landmark Waterfront Park. From its windows you can see some of the best seascapes in the city. Known for its Old South hospitality and attentive service, this is one of the best and most comfortable inns in the historic zone. Guest rooms have an understated elegance, with plush four-poster beds, wicker chests, sea-grass rugs, and rattan chairs -- decor very much in the style of an old-time Charleston sea captain's town house. Expect pampering here, from morning (when a continental breakfast is delivered to your door) to night (when turndown service comes with candy on your pillow). The beautifully maintained private bathrooms come with both tub and shower. The most elegant unit is the penthouse with its whirlpool bathroom, working fireplace, and private balcony. © Frommer's



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 723 0500  
fax: +1 843 723 4320  
http://www.marketpavilion.com/

**location:**

225 East Bay Street  
Charleston SC 29401-2608

**6 Market Pavilion Hotel (The)**

**DESCRIPTION:** The hotel evokes old-time Charleston so effectively that virtually everyone is amazed that the structure is from 2003. With only 66 rooms, it's defined as a classy boutique hotel with a spectacularly attractive bistro, the separately recommended **Grill 225**, which fills up most of its street-level entrance in a style that evokes a grandly imperious turn-of-the-20th-century bank. Accommodations are unashamedly posh, unashamedly conservative, and deeply connected to 18th-century English and colonial American (especially South Carolinian planters-style) furnishings and fabrics. There's a rooftop pool, terrace, and the Pavilion Bar, and a sense that this hotel attracts high-profile guests as diverse as John Kerry and Rush Limbaugh. The hotel's most visible and obvious competitor is the also-recommended and much larger and better-accessorized Charleston Place, which evokes a greater degree of European flair, more elaborate service, and even greater degrees of plush. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

**contact:**

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/south-carolina-charleston-beaufainstreetbedbreakfast.html>

**location:**

106 Beaufain Street  
Charleston SC 29401

**7 Beaufain Street Bed & Breakfast**

**DESCRIPTION:** Ideally located in Charleston's historic district. Within walking distance to shopping, dining, and touring. Enjoy beautiful sunsets over Colonial Lake on your own private piazza. This B&B is in a Charleston single house with large cheerful rooms. The bedroom is very private with queen size bed, working fireplace, oriental rugs and large private bath with tub and shower. All amenities, including complimentary off street parking. Continental breakfast with delicious fresh fruit and pastry. You will learn the best about this heavenly city at Beaufain St. B&B.



more at [BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 853 1886  
fax: +1 843 720 5290  
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/south-carolina-charleston-wentworth-mansion.html>

**location:**

149 Wentworth Street  
Charleston SC 29401

**8 Wentworth Mansion**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Wentworth Mansion, circa 1886, is one of the world's finest and most unique Inns. Once a grand, private residence, the Inn features the hand-carved marble fireplaces, intricate woodwork, parquet floors and Tiffany stained glass windows of the original owner. Twenty-one rooms and suites of unparalleled drama and beauty offer our guests an experience that will remain among the fondest of memories. Our rates include afternoon tea and wine tastings and a level of guest service expected at only the finest world class Inns.



more at [BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)

# Charleston (SC) Snapshot

## Local Info

A visit to Charleston is a little like stepping onto a movie set. Most of the historical district has been preserved intact and venerable old buildings and horse-drawn carriages are as much part of the urban scene here as cars. The second biggest city in the state of South Carolina, Charleston is the site of two rivers, the Cooper and the Ashley, which flow through on their way to the Atlantic and keep the city mild in summer and winter. The subtropical climate is pleasantly complemented by the laid-back yet sophisticated old-South ambiance. Cap it off with arguably the most well-mannered people in the country, and you have a destination that speaks for itself (politely, of course).

## Sights

Just donning a pair of comfortable shoes and sightseeing downtown can take up a whole day, because it's easy to be tempted by the many interesting attractions and historic architecture in the area. But if you're the type that likes a specific destination at the top of your itinerary-- and especially if you have kids in tow-- make your way to the South Carolina Aquarium at Charleston Harbor. It's a well-maintained marine museum that also boasts of its very own mountain forest. For a dose of interactive fun, bring your children to the Touch Tank, where they can have hands-on experience with stingrays and horseshoe crabs.

Another place that ought to make your list is the Charleston Tea Plantation, one of the most popular stops for tourists. Sprawling over more than 127 acres, it's the proud home of Classic American Tea, the only tea that's actually grown in the U.S.

## Shopping

It only takes a quick tour around to discern that this charming city also maintains a vibrant shopping scene. There are several large malls at intervals along the city center. And there are the requisite boutiques, art galleries and antique stores in the downtown historic district. But if you want

something more than the conventional stores, then Charleston Cooks is worth checking out. It's a retail shop that doubles as a cooking school, of sorts, and offers a wide range of equipment you'll find handy in any modern kitchen, as well as popular demo classes conducted by reputable chefs.

## Dining and Nightlife

Most of the city's high-end restaurants are scattered around the historic district. You'll find plenty of seafood here, as well as South Carolina's famous Lowcountry cuisine. Lowcountry menus feature seafood, with notable Caribbean and African influences.

For a truly memorable dining experience, take leave of dry land and hop aboard a SpiritLine Dinner Cruise. They depart from the harbor near the aquarium and feature three- and four-course gourmet meals, as well as dramatic views of the Charleston waterfront. If you're in the mood for something casual and simple, like a garden courtyard perhaps, then 82 Queen should do nicely with its barbeque shrimp and crab cakes.

© NileGuide

## History

### Historical Background

The 17th Century saw a mass migration of colonists and pilgrims from Europe across the Atlantic to the North American continent. Along with Spain and France, Great Britain was a major force in carving out the new frontier that was Colonial America. With a large number of settlers sailing from England, it is not hard to understand why so many settlements were named after British aristocracy.

King Charles II of England granted the Carolina territory to his eight loyal "Lord's Proprietors." The first colonists arrived in 1670 at an attractive harbor off the southeastern edge of the lush, green region. They established themselves on

the west bank of the Ashley River in what is now the state of South Carolina. They named the settlement "Charles Towne" after the monarch. These early colonists were unhappy with the location and in 1680 they re-established themselves three miles further down the river onto the peninsula, where the Ashley and Cooper rivers empty into the harbor. The city was re-incorporated in 1722 as "Charles City and Port" and renamed again in 1783 as "Charleston." The original site still exists as Charles Towne Landing.

Merchants in the young city earned a decent living trading pelts supplied by the Native Americans along with lumber, beef, hides and indigo. The soil conditions here made the region a prime area for growing rice and this became a major part of the city's agricultural output for years. Conditions were harsh and the stagnant, marshy surroundings bred disease. This contributed to a high mortality rate.

With the increasing availability of slave labor from Africa and the Caribbean islands, planters continued to expand their agricultural empires. They built mansions in town to avoid disease. Over time, Charleston became the richest town in the colonies. With wealth came position and power, and 18th-century planters were hungry for a more refined image than that of their recent settler descendants. They began to cultivate as much of a British way of life as they could.

If they impressed each other, they certainly did not impress the British soldiers, who occupied the city from 1780 to 1782. They were particularly harsh on colonial sympathizers. In America, the joke is, "George Washington slept here." America's first president did live up to that legend at least once by staying in a Charleston hotel owned by Thomas Heyward, who was jailed for supporting independence. The hotel is now known as the Heyward-Washington House and is a tourist attraction.

Maintaining the Southern way of life was one of driving issues of the mid-19th

## Charleston (SC) Snapshot continued

Century, as South Carolina became the focal point of a secessionist movement. South Carolina voted to secede from the Union in 1860. Local militia began to seize federal forts in Charleston Harbor. By the spring of 1861 only Fort Sumter remained in federal hands. Outgoing president James Buchanan had tried to supply the fort before Abraham Lincoln's inauguration, but the supply ship turned back. From the city, one had a very good view of the fort on April 12, 1861, when southern militia leader General Pierre G.T. Beauregard attacked it. Under-supplied and over-matched, the fort fell to the Confederate forces two days later.

Charleston's coastal location leaves it vulnerable to storms off the Atlantic Ocean. After the Civil War, the city was hit hard by hurricanes in 1885 and 1893. The bad luck with storms continued in the 20th Century which decimated the rice industry. The Great Earthquake compounded the misfortune in 1886. Some homes are still displaced as much as two inches from the shaking.

In the late 19th Century, work in the harbor created a deepwater passage, and a naval base was established in 1901. Throughout the two World Wars and into the Cold War, much of the city's economy relied on the U.S. Naval Defense industry. Charleston was temporarily hurt in 1993 by the closing of naval bases and shipyards.

After World War II, the port saw an increase in trade and now is a focal point for paper, metalworking, rubber and textile trade, as well as auto parts, chemicals and electrical equipment. Tourism also plays a major role in Charleston's 21st-century economy.

Charleston's heritage can be seen among the many plantations in the area including Boone Hall, Middleton Place and Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. Charleston's early military tradition can be experienced at Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter, and at The Citadel. To see artifacts of Charleston's past, one can visit the Charleston Museum. Founded in 1773, The Charleston Museum is the nation's oldest. Charleston's Historic District has several sections. Most of the city's remaining cobblestone streets can be found

in the Walled City. The Business District is home to the City Market. Included among Charleston's architectural beauty is the Governor's House Inn (a national landmark) and the Joseph Manigault House.

©

### Hotel Insights

#### Where To Stay

The choice of where to rest your head in Charleston is difficult. Perhaps you would like the briskness of the breeze blowing in from Charleston Harbor. Maybe you would rather hang out in the French Quarter. You may prefer to stay in an old building that conjures up images of the old city. Almost everywhere you turn you will see a slice of history and it is impossible to not be enthralled by the city's richness. The bed and breakfasts are enormously popular in Charleston and early reservations are recommended.

#### On the Waterfronts

The Harbourview Inn is a four-diamond hotel located by Waterfront Park. Its 52 rooms demonstrate the elegance and hospitality that defines the Old South. You can enjoy wine and cheese in the afternoon or milk and cookies at night. Palmer Home Bed & Breakfast was built in 1848 and has withstood hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. It is a private home owned by the same family for many generations. Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina at Patriots Point boasts a man made beach on the property and is located only two miles from downtown Charleston. The hotel offers fishing charters, jogging trails and bike paths. Situated along the Battery near the harbor, The Battery Carriage House Inn is a bed and breakfast offering a harbor view, intimate rooms and private gardens. One of South Carolina's finest golf resorts, Wild Dunes is bordered by the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. The Cottages at James Island County Park sit ten minutes from the beaches on the edge of 643 acres (260 hectares) of campground, bike trails, freshwater lakes to complement the saltwater fishing, and ten acres (four hectares) of open meadows.

#### Historic District

Mills House Hotel is a reconstruction of the original Mills House Hotel-only with modern amenities. Palmer's Pinckney Inn is located within walking distance of much of downtown Charleston and the Historic District. The Best Western King Charles Inn was originally the Pavilion Hotel. All fourteen rooms of The Barksdale House Inn bed and breakfast provide something unique, whether it is a bed decorated with inlaid mother-of-pearl or a bedside gas fireplace. The inn features a back porch garden and a continental breakfast each morning. The Jasmine House Inn is a Greek revival mansion in the Ansonborough area dating to 1843, and it is within walking distance to many downtown attractions. Historic Governor's House Inn was the home of Governor Edward Rutledge in the late 18th century and is also near many popular landmarks. The Indigo Inn carries a four-diamond rating from AAA. The building was originally a 19th-century warehouse for the indigo plant. Two Meeting Street Inn has garnered a reputation as one of the most enchanting bed and breakfasts in the South. The Francis Marion Hotel opened in 1924 and is named after the infamous Revolutionary War hero also known as "The Swamp Fox." Villa De La Fontaine Bed and Breakfast is a six-room (each with private bath), 18th-century mansion with a garden, terraces and tennis courts. The Best Western Sweetgrass and Days Inn Historic District provide 21st-century facilities in an 18th-century atmosphere.

#### French Quarter

The 45-room Vendue Inn is conveniently located near landmarks and boasts oriental rugs and lace-canopied beds. Fully modernized amenities complement the authentic 18th-century feel. 4 Unity Alley is literally tucked away in an alley between East Bay and State streets. The building is another renovated warehouse dating to the 18th Century.

#### Modern Alternatives

For more contemporary accommodations, there are the Embassy Suites North

## Charleston (SC) Snapshot continued

Charleston hotel and convention center near the airport, the Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport, the Charleston Marriott, and the Courtyard Charleston Downtown/Riverview.

©

### Restaurants Insights

#### Dining And Drinking

Charleston's eclectic character makes dining downtown a memorable experience. The city is home to a variety of eating establishments offering local and global fare. For a unique Southern flavor, you can order salmon and grits from Hyman's Seafood Company or enjoy "imaginative American cuisine with a Southern flair" at The Library at the Vendue Inn. Station 22 is the oldest continuously operating restaurant on Sullivan's Island. It offers a gallery of nostalgic black and white photographs of the island's history. Charleston's waterfront is where you should go if you are in the mood for seafood. A.W. Shuck's offers crab soup, raw bar and stuffed shrimp. Anson, which is only open for dinner, also serves up she-crab soup along with light entrees. For a different taste, try their shrimp and grits or their cashew-encrusted grouper. California Dreaming boasts an excellent surf and turf selection and waterfront dining. The Wreck is a cash-only restaurant overlooking Shem Creek, seafood. Fans of the film *Forrest Gump* will want to stop by the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. on Market Street. For a taste of upscale Southern cuisine there is Charleston Chops, where you can listen to live piano music while savoring steak, seafood and wine. The Charleston Grill on Main Street is the place to go for local game, seafood and produce. There you can sample some baked grits or Vidalia hash pie. Southern cooking is an art at Magnolia's with shrimp sausage and grits, down-south egg roll and veal meatloaf. Poogan's Porch is highly acclaimed and many celebrities have sampled their upscale cuisine. For local ingredients and a good, modestly priced wine, try The Old Post Office Restaurant on Edisto Island. Peninsula Grill serves more conventional items and boasts an

award-winning wine list. Spirit of Carolina offers a dinner cruise through Charleston Harbor. Cypress is an upscale restaurant without the upscale prices. It is housed in a building constructed in the 1830s and jackets are required downstairs. If the taste of city life is not for you, you can escape without traveling too far. More classic Southern meals can be found at places like Hominy Grill, which serves shrimp with brown gravy and fried green tomatoes. Charleston's Café, formally known as The Bookstore Café, provides country cooking for breakfast and lunch as well as catering services in its Mount Pleasant location. Jestine's Kitchen is another excellent place to go for an old-fashioned meal at affordable prices, while Rosebank Farms Café offers something more eclectic. Even with its regional character, Charleston remains cosmopolitan as evidenced by the international flavor found in its eateries. 39 Rue de Jean is an authentic French Bistro. A Taste of India serves North Indian dishes for lunch and dinner. You will feel like a Polka after sampling the Wiener Schnitzel at Max & Moritz Restaurant. Come to the Athens Restaurant & Grill for a wide selection of Greek fare. Charleston has several fine Italian restaurants; some of the best are Capriccio Restaurant and Fulton Five. Wasabi Japanese Restaurant, Sushi Hiro, and Tsunami are good places to go should you feel like sushi or other Japanese fare. Want to stop for a cold one? 82 Queen is a favorite watering hole for the Broad Street business professionals, and the Blind Tiger Pub takes you across the Atlantic to an English-style establishment. There is something for everyone to eat in Charleston, and you do not have to be a native Southerner to appreciate it, though you may feel like one when you leave.

©

### Nightlife Insights

#### Entertainment

Charleston offers a splendid mix of events and activities to stimulate the mind, body and spirit. Some of the more interesting options appear below, although

it represents a very small selection of available activities.

#### Music and Theater

The Charleston Symphony Orchestra is conducted by music director David Stahl and is the largest year-round performing arts organization in South Carolina. The orchestra performs a wide spectrum of music for adults and children through its concert series. Under the klieg lights, the Charleston Stage Company performs plays and musicals at the historic Dock Street Theatre.

#### Art

There are approximately 10,000 objects to view at The Gibbes Museum of Art. The museum focuses on American artifacts from a Charleston perspective. The collections include paintings from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, sculptures and photographs.

#### Museums and Exhibits

The Karpeles Manuscript Museum is one of seven Karpeles museums in the country. Charleston's African-American heritage is preserved at the Avery Research Center for African-American History and Culture. Papers, photographs, oral histories and other materials are maintained in the archives. The Jewish Heritage Collection of the College of Charleston's Robert Scott Small Library recounts the Jewish experience in South Carolina from colonial times to the present. For the aquatic lover, there is the South Carolina Aquarium.

#### Shopping

Blink! is one of Charleston's unique stores offering a selection of ceramics and jewelry from a variety of artists. Boomer's Books and Collectibles is Charleston's biggest used books store with over 35,000 pre-owned titles. The downtown Charleston Market offers a wide selection of art, jewelry, clothing books and collectibles. Century House Antiques has collections of Chinese and English porcelain from the 18th and 19th centuries. Chapter II Books places the spotlight on books about Charleston and books by Charleston-based authors.

#### Sports

## Charleston (SC) Snapshot continued

Charleston is home to several sports teams. The South Carolina Sting Rays, a Buffalo Sabres affiliate, were in the playoffs each of their first eight years of existence beginning in 1993. The Charleston Swamp Foxes have seen less success in their young history, but provide the city with a local Arena League-2 football team. The Charleston River Dogs baseball club is a Class-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays in the South Atlantic League.

### The Harbor

Charleston Harbor has several opportunities for fun boating. The Ocean Sailing Academy provides U.S. Sailing Certification courses from the Charleston Harbor Marina and Bohicket Marina. For experienced sailors, the academy also charters boats as large as 46 feet. If you like to fish, Fin Stalker Charters boasts year-round fishing with Charleston native Captain Chris Chavis. Captain J.R. Waits, of Fish Call Charters, is another experienced guide, who will take the experienced and the novice on light tackle and fly-fishing excursions.

### Beaches

For quieter times, Charleston Waterfront Park has 12 acres of shrubbery, trees and benches overlooking the water. The park includes a 400-foot long wharf and fishing pier. Nearby Beachwalker Park furnishes sandy beaches and 450 feet of designated swimming area. Lifeguards are on duty seasonally. Folly Beach is located near Charleston and has a nice selection of seafood restaurants. Isle of Palms is known for its sandwich shops as well as its waterfront.

©

## Things to Do Insights

### Recommended Tours

One of the best ways to experience Charleston is through tours of the town and surrounding areas.

### Tour Companies

The Original Charleston Walks is a company that provides a series of different tours. It includes its basic, the original

Charleston Walk, which shows you the old and the new as you stroll through Charleston's history from its days as a young colony, through the American Revolution and Civil War. Charleston works to preserve its past as one can see when they visit the city's oldest church, the harbor, Fort Sumter, John C. Calhoun's grave and more. Charleston has endured much and its tenaciousness and longevity is apparent. Charleston's Pirates & Buccaneers, subtitled "The War Against The Pirates," will take you back in time to the earliest decades of the 18th century, when Charleston not only faced war with the Native Americans on the land, but also from fierce scavengers on the sea. The excursion introduces the tourist to Blackbeard, Captain Kidd and Anne Bonny as you rediscover the Walled City, Pirate Tavern and buried treasure. In December of 1860, Charleston was the site where South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Four months later, Charleston again became a focal point when it witnessed the fall of Fort Sumter in its Harbor in the first battle of the Civil War. The Civil War Walk relives the siege of Charleston. The tour takes about two hours. The Ghosts & Legends Walk is the first year-round ghost tour of Charleston's Historic District. You can learn about the Gullah Boo Hag or the ghost in City Hall. This 90-minute tour is one of Charleston's most popular walking tours. Or head to Bulldog Tours for another spooky tour. The Bulldog Tours has exclusive access to several infamous sites, including touring a graveyard and a haunted jail. Charleston was instrumental in the American Revolution. The Patriots of Charleston will show you places and introduce people who helped win America's independence including the Old Exchange Building & Provost Dungeon and "The Swamp Fox." The Historic Homes Walk takes a slow saunter through Charleston's Historic District where you can see some of the most beautiful homes in the South. Along the way you will see the Heyward-Washington House, the Edmonston-Alston House and many others. Classic Carriage Tours provides one-hour day

and twilight tours through the city. Evening tours are available by appointment. Private, group and special occasion tours are also available. The carriages are pulled by award winning Percheron Draft Horses, extending a 300-year-old tradition. Taylored Tours of Charleston offers four motorized tours of Charleston. The General History Tour is a 75-minute, fast-paced tour of the city and covers 110 points of interest including City Market, the Dock Street Theatre, Charleston Battery and the Old Citadel. This is a very popular tour for the general tourist. On the Plantation Tour, you will get round-trip transportation to either Middleton Place or Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. On the General History/ House Museum Tour, you can see some of Charleston's finest homes. This covers 90 minutes of general history and a 30-minute tour of the Edmonston-Alston House, Heyward-Washington House, Nathaniel Russell House or the Aiken-Rhett House depending on which tour you take. Finally, the Special Interest Tour of Charleston takes 90 minutes and can be tailored to specific sites. This is great excursion for history buffs.

### Plantation Tours

Gabriel Manigault studied architecture and designed the Joseph Manigault House for his brother Joseph. Built in 1803, this estate almost failed to survive the onslaught of surrounding development to be enjoyed. The Charleston Museum maintains the home. Drayton Hall is the oldest preserved plantation in the United States still open to the public. The house, relatively unchanged in over 250 years, sits on 630 acres and has seen seven generations of family ownership. Boone Hall Plantation is the most photographed plantation in America. It has been the backdrop for Hollywood many times. Middleton Place is home to the oldest landscaped gardens in America, and once housed Arthur Middleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Tourists will want to spend a long time at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, which was built in 1676. A wide variety of activities are offered on the grounds. Aside from the plantation house itself, you can also tour the vast

## Charleston (SC) Snapshot continued

grounds via the Nature Train or Nature Boat.

### On The Water

Fort Sumter Tours offers tours from the deck of the Spirit of Carolina. During the Charleston Harbor Tour, you will see the city through a 90-minute tour of the Battery, Cooper River Bridges, Charleston Waterfront Park, Fort Moultrie National Monument and more. Also offered is the Spirit of Carolina Dinner Cruise, in which you will be served a gourmet dinner while listening to live music and cruising the harbor. Alongside several vessels, the Yorktown is the main attraction of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. A keystone of America's role in the Pacific during World War II, the aircraft carrier is a wonderful exhibit of the good and bad fortunes of life on the sea during wartime.

### Travel Tips

#### Getting There:

##### By Air:

Charleston International Airport( CHS) (+1 843 762 6678/ <http://www.chs-airport.com/>) has over 100 flights daily to destinations worldwide on the following airlines:

Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ <http://www.continental.com>)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com>)

United(+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com>)

US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ <http://www.usairways.com>)

Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ <http://www.nwa.com>)

##### Charter Vehicles:

Absolutely Charleston+1 843 884 9505/  
<http://www.absolutelycharleston.com>

Coastal Limousine, Inc.+1 843 958 0606/  
<http://www.coastlimo.com>

Mount Pleasant Shuttle+1 866 223 7226/  
<http://www.mpshuttle.com>

Weston Limo-Taxi/Bus Service+ 1 843 327 8362

##### Rental Car companies include:

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/ <http://www.avis.com>)  
Enterprise(+1 800 325 8007/ <http://www.enterprise.com>)

Triangle(+1 800 643 RENT/ <http://www.trianglarentacar.com/>)

##### By Train:

Amtrak's runs daily to Charleston.  
(+1 800 USA RAIL(872 7245)/ <http://www.amtrak.com>).

##### By Bus:

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222,+1 843 744 4247/ <http://www.greyhound.com>) accesses Charleston daily.

##### By Car:

Reach Charleston from Rt. 26, or Rt 526.

##### Getting Around:

By Bus: Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority(Carta) has several routes within the city<http://www.ridecarta.com/home/default.aspx>. They also have Dash Trolleys that run within the city.

Taxis: There is a fixed rate for the airport vicinity of\$7 per passenger, and it is approximately\$20 from the airport to downtown.

Checker Taxi+1 843 747 9200

Express Cab Company+1 843 577 8816

Yellow Cab+1 843 577 6565

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at<https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling

technicalities and safety standards check out<http://travel.state.gov/>.

©

### Fun Facts

Charleston

State: South Carolina

Country: United States

Charleston by the Numbers:

Population: 579,000

Elevation: 834 feet

Average Annual Precipitation: 52.1 inches

Average January Temperature: 49 degrees F

Average July Temperature: 81 degrees F

##### Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Oil, Electronics, Computers, Mining

Ethnic Mix: 58% Caucasian, 40.7% African American, 0.2% Native American, 1.1% other groups

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT-5

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 843, 803

##### Did You Know?

As a center of the Old Confederacy, Charleston is rich in Civil War lore. Old Charleston is an example of the antebellum Southern aristocracy.

##### Orientation:

Charleston is in southeastern South Carolina on the Atlantic coast. To the north are sandy beaches and to the south is marshy with many rivers and creeks creating inlets and the Sea Islands.

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