ArrivalGuides
A SMARTVEL COMPANY

Charleston, South Carolina

in collaboration with Brand USA

Photo: Charleston Area CVB

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston is a stunning destination known for its celebrated restaurant scene, architectural treasures, historic wonders, and serene coastal landscapes. Experience the local culture through food and music festivals and enjoy Lowcountry cuisine. The city's historic district is full of beautiful courtyards and gardens. There are many tours available to explore the city's culinary hot spots, Antebellum mansions, historic churches, breweries, and more.

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston Area CVB

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On Purpose Adventures offers events for thrill seekers by creating a mixture...

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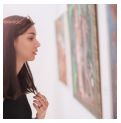
South Carolina Aquarium
With over 5,000 animals on display and in their care, the South Carolina Aqu...



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The oak trees that line the entrance to Boone Hall Plantation took over 200 ...

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THE CITY

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston has received numerous awards for being an outstanding destination. For three consecutive years, Charleston was named 'Top U.S. City' by “Condé Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Awards”. Distinguished travel companies such as “Travel + Leisure” and “Southern Living” magazine have given other awards to Charleston. Its people are mannerly and welcoming, showing the very best of southern hospitality to Charleston visitors.

Charleston is filled with early 20th-century architecture that is renovated and perfectly maintained. Nowhere is this more evident than at Charleston’s historic King Street. This historic shopping, dining and design district is defined by three distinct areas: the Upper King Street Design and Dining District, the Middle King Street Fashion District and the Lower King Street Antiques District. So, you can find everything you could possibly want, from electronics to crafts.

Stroll past many familiar brands along with dozens of unique local retailers. Many are housed in historically significant buildings, a Charleston convergence of old and new. Expect to see many familiar brands like Anthropologie, Apple, Banana Republic and Gap. But also visit the many local establishments that offer a little piece of Charleston to take home with you. Blue Bicycle Books is a local favorite, offering new and used books and supporting local authors. At King Street’s Antiques District, check out George C. Birlant & Co., which has been selling upscale antiques from around the world since 1922.

DO & SEE

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston, the largest city in South Carolina, is a vibrant port city offering many entertainment options, from museums and restaurants to beaches and boating excursions. Hop on a ferry to visit the historic Fort Sumter, take a stroll down King Street or through the French Quarter, and explore the rich local culture.

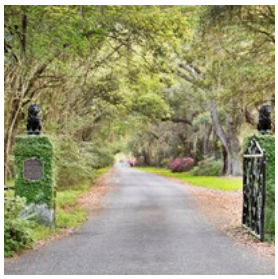
Boone Hall Plantation

The oak trees that line the entrance to Boone Hall Plantation took over 200 years to meet and create the corridor leading to the home. Multiple tours are available that showcase all that happened at Boone Hall Plantation when it was a working residence.

Photo: Charleston Area CVB
Address: 1235 Long Point Road, Mt Pleasant, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm
Phone: +1 843 884 4371
Internet: www.boonehallplantation.com

Email: info@boonehallplantation.com

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens



Open to the public since 1870, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens offers boat tours, train tours, a zoo and a nature center. It's America's last large-scale Romantic-style garden, and is the perfect place to host a wedding or other events.

Photo: Charleston Area CVB
Address: 3550 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–5pm
Phone: +1 843 571 1266
Internet: www.magnoliaplantation.com
Email: info@magnoliaplantation.com

Theatre 99

Go out for a night of improv comedy and enjoy a hilarious show that will make you laugh all evening long. As a matter of fact, it's so popular it's recommended to buy tickets early in the morning before they are sold out.

Photo: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com
Address: 280 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 843 853 6687
Internet: www.theatre99.com
Email: info@theatre99.com

Schooner Pride

A trip to Charleston must include a sail ride on The Schooner Pride. The pleasant and relaxing sailing boat offers a variety of events, both private and corporate, which are followed by a range of activities, from Afternoon Dolphin Sail to Moonlight Sail. The professional and courteous crew contribute to the great experience by narrating compelling stories about the area.

Photo: Charleston Area CVB
Address: Aquarium Wharf, 360 Concord Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 8am–7pm
Phone: +1 843 722 1112
Internet: www.schoonerpride.com
Email: info@schoonerpride.com

Charleston Food Tours

Charleston Food Tours is addressed to all food lovers by offering an array of culinary temptations. You have the opportunity to select among several tours depending on your food preferences. During each tour you visit a variety of local restaurants, bakeries and pastry shops characterized by distinctive food and warm hospitality.

Photo: Charleston Area CVB
Address: 18-B Anson Street, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 843 722 8687
Internet: www.charlestonfoodtours.com
Email: info@charlestonfoodtours.com

On Purpose Adventures

On Purpose Adventures offers events for thrill seekers by creating a mixture of entertaining experiences and future memories with an adventurous tinge. Examples of activities include team building paintball, sailing, bubble soccer, paddleboarding and kayaking.

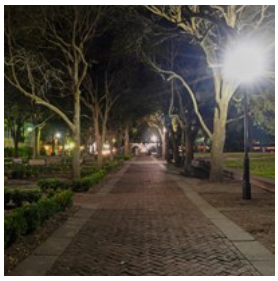
Photo: upslim/Shutterstock.com
Address: 460 King Street Suite 200, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 854 888 9893
Internet: www.onpurposeadventures.com
Email: info@onpurposeadventures.com

Splash Zone Waterpark At James Island County Park

Splash Zone Waterpark is a fun, family-friendly waterpark located at James Island County Park. It is a perfect place for a pleasant and enjoyable experience for the whole family, where kids can explore the huge variety of spectacular water slides, while adults revel in pools and on shaded sunbeds. James Island County Park opens seasonally during the warmest months.

Photo: Poznyakov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 871 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 843 795 4386
Internet: www.ccprc.com/1659/Splash-Zone
Email: customerservice@ccprc.com

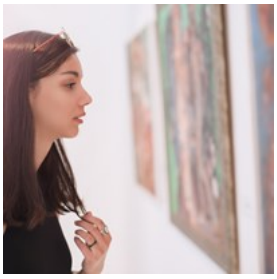
Charleston Ghost & Dungeon Tour



This 90-minute walking tour of the dark edges of the Charleston Historic Haunted District will include cemeteries, churches, and back alleyways. Hear narratives passed on through the years of all things haunted in Charleston. After all, a city established as part of the original Thirteen Colonies must have some great and terrifying stories to tell.

Photo: Bradley Hyde/Shutterstock.com
Address: 18 Anson Street, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 843 722 8687
Internet: www.bulldogtours.com

Gibbes Museum of Art



The Gibbes Museum of Art has between 6 and 8 exhibitions every year, including the permanent Charleston Story exhibit. The museum also offers lectures, tours and classes. After its renovation, the museum reopened again in 2016, transforming into an even more vivid cultural hot spot.

Photo: guruXOX/Shutterstock.com
Address: 135 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 1pm–5pm
Phone: +1 843 722 2706
Internet: www.gibbesmuseum.org
Email: sales@gibbesmuseum.org

Dock Street Theater

The Dock Street Theater is an irreplaceable part of Charleston's artistic life. In 1736, it was opened as the first structure to be built exclusively for performances. Even today, after almost 4 centuries in the heart of Charleston, the theater still hosts many plays like Annie and Charlotte's Web.

Photo: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com
Address: 135 Church Street, Charleston, SC
Phone: +1 843 577 7183
Internet: www.charlestonstage.com
Email: byoung@charlestonstage.com

Palmetto Carriage Tour

As the oldest carriage tour in Charleston, Palmetto has long been on the list of things to include in a visit. A one-hour tour in the carriage will show you around the historic highlights and things that most visitors don't get to see. If you want to see Charleston from a different perspective, experience this comprehensive tour.

Photo: Betty Shelton/Shutterstock.com
Address: 8 Guignard Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–7pm
Phone: +1 843 983 2776
Internet: www.palmettocarriage.com
Email: managers@palmettocarriage.com

Fort Sumter

As the site of the first shots fired during the Civil War, Fort Sumter has a strong place in American History. On a boat ride to Fort Sumter, hear about events that led to the War between the states. After an hour touring Fort Sumter, the boat returns back to either of the two departure locations.

Photo: James P Mock/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan’s Island, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–4:30pm
Phone: +1 843 883 3123
Internet: www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm

Castle Pinckney

Castle Pinckney is one of America's oldest intact forts that has witnessed a long and storied past from Colonial times through the Confederate period. While it remains closed to public access, boat tours offer a glimpse of this historic landmark.

Photo: Jim Wearne/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mount Pleasant, Charleston, SC
Internet: www.castlepinckney.org

Middleton Place

Middleton Place is home to America's oldest landscape gardens. Built in 1755, the House Museum features four generations of furniture, silver, porcelain, and books. You can admire the wonderful flora and fauna and learn about the history of the mansion. The silence and tranquility make this place a romantic one for wedding ceremonies.

Photo: B Holford/Shutterstock.com
Address: 4300 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–5pm
Phone: + 1 843 556 6020
Internet: www.middletonplace.org

South Carolina Aquarium

With over 5,000 animals on display and in their care, the South Carolina Aquarium is sure to delight all ages. Highlights include the Hurricane Simulator, which recreates the sensation of being in a hurricane, and the

immersive 4-D theater.

Photo: HappyKristy/Shutterstock.com
Address: 100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–5pm
Phone: +1 843 577 3474
Internet: www.scaquarium.org
Email: information@scaquarium.org

DINING

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston, South Carolina is a culinary capital. Its secrets are an abundance of fresh, local ingredients that inspire rich culinary traditions and delicious signature dishes. What's more, you can find award-winning chefs who have established landmark restaurants in the city. Finally, the expanding offering of craft beverages pairs beautifully with Charleston’s unforgettable cuisine.

Amen Street Fish & Raw Bar

Amen Street Fish & Raw Bar is located in the heart of Charleston's Historic District. The bar specializes in sustainable seafood and has a full-service bar with extensive wine, beer and cocktail lists. Addictive and exquisite sea temptations will satisfy even the most sophisticated taste.

Photo: NaturalBox/Shutterstock.com
Address: 205 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 11am–10pm, Fri & Sat 11am–11pm
Phone: +1 843 853 8600
Internet: www.amenstreet.com
Email: info@amenstreet.com

Chubby Fish

Chubby Fish changes its menu daily according to the fresh catch made by local fishermen. They offer raw dishes like yellow fin tuna crudo and oysters served with rice vinegar, or grilled mahi-mahi as well as pasta with blue crab meat. They also have discounts on their mollusks during their Oyster Hour, taking place Tuesday through Saturday from 5pm to 6pm.

Photo: Caftor/Shutterstock.com
Address: 252 Coming Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Tue–Thu 5pm–10pm, Fri–Sat 5pm–11pm, Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +1 854 222 3949
Internet: www.chubbyfishcharleston.com
Email: info@chubbyfishcharleston.com

Halls Chophouse

Sit down, grab the menu and order the largest steak you can find. This family-owned restaurant is determined to give you the best restaurant experience you can find in the city of Charleston. Halls Chophouse will fascinate you with its good cuisine and a unique atmosphere.

Photo: HLPhoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: 434 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 4pm–11pm, Fri 4pm–midnight, Sat 11am–midnight, Sun 10am–11pm
Phone: +1 843 727 0090
Internet: www.hallschophouse.com

BLU Beach Bar & Grill

Located on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, BLU Restaurant & Bar offers fresh local meals and seasonal specialties in a casual and elegant atmosphere. With the captivating open-air view of the ocean, you can immerse yourself in a lovely and relaxing experience combined with delicately served food.

Photo: bady abbas/unsplash
Address: 1 Center Street, Folly Beach, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 7:30am–9pm, Fri & Sat 7:30am–10pm
Phone: +1 843 588 6658
Internet: www.blufollybeach.com
Email: eat@blufollybeach.com

Brown Dog Deli

At Brown Dog Deli you can choose from fresh, delicious and diverse culinary creations which leave customers satisfied. This creatively designed restaurant with a great vibe is a pleasant spot for lunch or quick dinner in-between sightseeing.

Photo: Ekaterina Kondratova/Shutterstock.com
Address: 225 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–6pm, Sun 9am–4pm
Phone: +1 843 723 0506
Internet: www.calhoun.browndogdeli.com
Email: browndog225@gmail.com

Swig & Swine

A much-loved Charleston favorite located in Mount Pleasant. The slow wood-smoked BBQ became an instant hit upon first opening in 2013, and continues to draw in patrons with its mouthwatering meats of all kinds, accompanied by a range of Southern sides and more that 60 varieties of craft beer.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2379 Highway 41 Mount Pleasant, SC
Opening hours: Daily 11am–9pm
Phone: +1 843 416 7368
Internet: www.swigandswinebbq.com
Email: info@swigandswine.com

Vincent Chicco's

Luxurious atmosphere, flavorful and classic Italian-American cuisine, pleasant surroundings and a lot of attention to detail. These are just a few of the many restaurant's highlights. Vincent Chicco's is also suitable for private gatherings and events, such as weddings.

Photo: Alessio Orru/Shutterstock.com
Address: 39G John Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun, Tue–Thu 4:30pm–9:30pm, Fri & Sat 4:30pm–10pm, Mon closed
Phone: +1 843 203 3002
Internet: www.holycityhospitality.com/vincent-chiccos
Email: info@vincentchiccos.com

Rodney Scott's BBQ

Visiting the US is accompanied by immersing yourself in the local cuisine, and barbecue is an irreplaceable part of American life. Rodney Scott's BBQ is a relatively new addition to the Charleston dining scene, characterized by its distinctive BBQ style and delicious food, crafted with both skill and creativity.

Photo: David P. Smith/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1011 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 11am–9pm
Phone: +1 843 990 9535
Internet: www.rodneyscottsbbq.com

Slightly North of Broad Restaurant

Slightly North of Broad is an attractive dining spot, which offers an abundance of fresh meals, from fish and meat dishes to soups, salads and appetizers. All of this, combined with the calm, pleasant and elegant atmosphere is something to take advantage of.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 192 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11am–10pm, Sun 10:30am–10pm
Phone: +1 843 723 3424
Internet: www.snobcharleston.com

Poogan’s Porch

Poogan's Porch is one of Charleston's oldest independent restaurants, located in an elegantly restored Victorian house. Celebrities often make appearances here on their stays in Charleston. The menu includes a variety of traditional meals with plenty of vegetarian options.

Photo: REDPIXELPL/Shutterstock.com
Address: 72 Queen Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 9am–3pm / 4:30pm–9:30pm
Phone: +1 843 829 4332
Internet: www.poogansporch.com
Email: info@poogansporch.com

Husk Restaurant

Husk celebrates the South with fresh, organic ingredients sourced only from Southern farmers and purveyors. The bar at Husk features a progressive wine list, Southern beers, and handcrafted cocktails, sticking to the local traditional flavors, but also including some of the most refined international ones.

Photo: Sergey Mironov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 76 Queen Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 5pm–10pm, Fri 5pm–11pm, Sat 10am–2pm / 5pm–11pm, Sun 10am–2pm / 5pm–10pm
Phone: +1 843 577 2500
Internet: www.huskrestaurant.com
Email: info@huskrestaurant.com
More Info: Online booking possible

High Cotton Charleston Restaurant

High Cotton Charleston means fine dining in the South's true fashion. Plan your visit to this inviting restaurant where warmth and joviality accompany every dish, and every single bite is full of flavor. Caramelized onion soup, Bibb lettuce salad, High Cotton shrimp & grits, and praline soufflé are just few of the culinary specialties waiting for you. Enjoy a remarkable wine and cocktail menu,

as well as their live music, which is every evening and on Saturday and Sunday brunch.

Photo: Diego Cervo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 199 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 4:30pm–10pm, Fri 4:30pm–11pm Sat & Sun 10am–2pm / 4pm–10pm
Phone: +1 843 724 3815
Internet: www.highcottoncharleston.com
More Info: Online booking possible

Peninsula Grill

The AAA Four-Diamond Peninsula Grill is located in the heart of historic Charleston. It's been recognized by Food & Wine, The New York Times, Southern Living, Travel + Leisure, Wine Spectator, and others for the finest and freshest ingredients, sourced locally and globally.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 112 North Market Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 5pm–10pm
Phone: +1 843 723 0700
Internet: www.peninsulagrill.com
Email: reservations@peninsulagrill.com

Virginia's on King

The sophisticated Virginia's serves exquisite Southern dining from the comforts of a traditional Southern kitchen. The restaurant offers a hospitable ambiance with regional dishes prepared in expert manner, a fine selection of drinks and alluring desserts.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: 412 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Wed 8am–3pm, Thu–Sun 8am–8:30pm
Phone: +1 843 735 5800
Internet: www.holycityhospitality.com/virginias-on-king
Email: info@virginiasonking.com

Circa 1886

Circa 1886 impresses easily with a wine list that boasts close to 280 bottles. The restaurant serves a seasonal menu which spans contemporary cuisine influenced by Charleston's rich history. You can also take advantage of the regularly updated series of events organized by Circa 1886, which will lift your spirits and serve as excellent entertainment.

Photo: Minerva Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 149 Wentworth Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Tue, Thu–Sat 5pm–9pm, Wed & Sun closed
Phone: +1 843 853 7828
Internet: www.circa1886.com
Email: info@circa1886.com

Charleston Grill

Charleston Grill wields a blend of Southern, French, and Contemporary cuisines by Chef Michelle Weaver. Live jazz from The Quentin Baxter Jazz Ensemble plays softly as guests sip from a wine list of nearly 1,300 labels.

Photo: bikeriderlondon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 224 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 5pm–10pm
Phone: +1 800 611 5545
Internet: www.charlestongrill.com
Email: charlestongrill@charlestonplace.com

Ted's Butcherblock

Ted's is both an operational butcher shop and a gourmet market. Enjoy homemade meals, quality meats, sandwiches, salads, boutique wines, hand-crafted beers, artisan cheeses, and specialty foods.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com
Address: 334 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Tue–Thu 11am–7pm, Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 11am–5pm, Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +1 843 577 0094
Internet: www.tedsbutcherblock.com
Email: info@tedsbutcherblock.com

CAFES

Nejron Photo/Shutterstock.com

Cafes in Charleston fit with the hospitality of this charming Southern city, and will delight both in the morning and at lunch. The cafes offer a wide variety of aromatic coffee drinks, fine cocktails, sweet and savory temptations, all in a relaxing ambiance and often accompanied by a spectacular view. Coffee at the dewy Charleston sunrise is a must.

Caviar & Bananas — Gourmet Market & Cafe

The Caviar & Bananas experience will touch and delight your senses. The wide variety of specialty foods, including sandwiches, salads, pastries, cookies and many more, allow for a wonderful breakfast and lunch.

Photo: Valery121283/Shutterstock.com
Address: 51 George Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–6pm, Sat & Sun 8am–6pm
Phone: +1 843 577 7757
Internet: www.caviarandbananas.com
Email: info@caviarandbananas.com

Sugar Bakeshop

Tired after a long walk around Charleston? Looking for some yummy desserts? Then this is definitely a place to visit. Sugar Bakeshop is a cozy little bakery which has a lot to offer, both seasonally and year-round. Here you can enjoy a rich diversity of cookies, cupcakes, tarts, cakes, pies and other specialties.

Photo: Marharyta Kovalenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 59 1/2 Cannon Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun closed
Phone: +1 843 579 2891
Internet: www.sugarbakeshopchs.com
Email: hello@sugarbakeshopchs.com

Kaminsky's

Kaminsky's Cafe is a place known for its ability to tempt the passerby. The moment you step inside, you become overwhelmed by the smell

of chocolate. The large selection of daily fresh desserts, such as cakes and pies, as well as beverages, make for an abundance of choice. This place is suitable for a romantic date in a stylish ambiance.

Photo: Everything/Shutterstock.com
Address: 78 North Market Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 2pm–11pm, Fri & Sat noon–1am, Sun noon–11pm
Phone: +1 843 853 8270
Internet: www.kaminskys.com

Second State Coffee

Second State Coffee is a contemporary Charleston coffee bar located in a quiet area. This is a good place to catch up on emails or just have a rest in a laid-back atmosphere, all while sipping on an exquisite coffee.

Photo: Shaiith/Shutterstock.com
Address: 70.5 Beaufain Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–5pm, Sat & Sun 8am–5pm
Phone: +1 843 793 4402
Internet: www.secondstatecoffee.com
Email: info@secondstatecoffee.com

Charleston Coffee Exchange

Charleston Coffee Exchange is a coffee shop offering a variety of delightful coffee drinks, with seasonal specialties. You can also add some snacks to the mix, for instance pastries or breakfast sandwiches.

Photo: StudioByTheSea/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2875 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 6am–6pm, Sat & Sun 7am–5pm
Phone: +1 843 571 5875
Internet: www.charlestoncoffeeexchange.com
Email: info@charlestoncoffeeexchange.com

Queen Street Grocery

Located in a tranquil part of Charleston's Old Town, Queen Street Grocery is a casual spot for a restful break. You can sit both inside and outside and relish the crepes, sandwiches, salads and more.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 133 Queen Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Thur–Tue 9am–3pm, Wed 9am–3:30pm
Phone: +1 843 723 4121
Internet: www.queenstreetgrocerycafe.com

Mercantile & Mash

This cozy coffee shop offers a creative and extensive menu featuring wraps, sandwiches, bagels, coffee and smoothies. Check their website to join some of their lessons like 'candle making and more.

Photo: Tara Evans/unsplash
Address: 701 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–5:30pm, Sat 8am–4pm, Sun 8am–3pm
Phone: +1 843 793 2636
Internet: www.mercandmash.com

Carmella's Cafe & Dessert Bar

Here you can enjoy delicious sandwiches, sophisticated desserts, aromatic hot drinks and fantastic cocktails. The sweet temptations will pleasantly surprise you with their great variety. If you want to relax with a cup of nice coffee and

a pastry or even eat something savory, this is the place to visit.

Photo: HLPhoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: 198 East Bay Street 100, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 8am–noon
Phone: +1 843 722 5893
Internet: www.carmellasdessertbar.com
Email: charleston@carmellasdessertbar.com

Another Broken Egg Cafe

At Another Broken Egg Cafe, favorite breakfast and brunch classics are served with a southern Lowcountry twist. Located in Charleston's Historic District, the cafe breathes a vaguely French air, which conquers most at first sight.

Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock.com
Address: 99 South Market St 4, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–2pm, Sat & Sun 7am–3pm
Phone: +1 843 202 0417
Internet: www.anotherbrokenegg.com
Email: social@anotherbrokenegg.com

Aaron’s Deli

A Hyman establishment since 1890, Aaron’s is a New York-style deli. Sandwiches, po-boys, and huge burgers are all served here, along with some excellent salads. Are you in the mood for some snacks? Stop by here and grab something for breakfast or lunch.

Photo: Oze Mind/Shutterstock.com
Address: 213 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 11am–9pm, Fri & Sat 11am–10pm
Phone: +1 843 723 6000
Internet: www.hymanseafood.com
Email: hymansseafood@aol.com

Kudu Coffee & Craft Beer

Kudu Coffee & Craft Beer serves freshly roasted coffee and offers over 20 rotating taps. The spacious courtyard is perfect for relaxing. Grab a delicious cup of coffee or beer at Kudu Coffee & Craft Beer and enjoy the social atmosphere of the lovely venue.

Photo: Yitzhak Rodriguez/unsplash
Address: 4 Vanderhorst Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7am–7pm, Sun 7:30am–6pm
Phone: +1 843 853 7186
Email: info@kuducharleston.com

Toast of Charleston

Toast has been praised by the New York Times as 'a must for breakfast,' and has been voted 'best breakfast in Charleston.' Located in the in the heart of downtown, this fabulous spot will enchant you with its fancy food and drinks. The Bottomless Mimosa and Bacon Bloody Mary are must-trys.

Photo: Akhenaton Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 155 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 6am–3pm
Phone: +1 843 225 8922
Internet: www.toastofcharleston.com
Email: toast@toastofcharleston.com

Verde On The Go

Verde On The Go is Charleston's source for fresh and satisfying healthy food. You can assemble dishes and drinks according to your

own taste, choosing from over 45 toppings and handmade dressings, or go for one of their signature creations.

Photo: Nitr/Shutterstock.com
Address: 433 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 10am–8pm
Phone: +1 843 793 1665
Internet: www.eatatverde.com
Email: info@eatatverde.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston nightlife offers live music at several venues across town. Bars and clubs pepper the area. Join in with the local crowd as you move from club to club, or take to a local bar and sample Charleston craft brews. There is no reason to leave out the excellent nightlife that Charleston has to offer.

Vendue Inn Rooftop Bar

With a wonderful view of the downtown and a casual feel, this rooftop bar is a real classic, featuring live music that attracts both locals and visitors. It's been voted 'Best Rooftop Bar' repeatedly.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 19 Vendue Range, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 11:30am–11pm, Fri & Sat 11:30am–midnight
Phone: +1 843 577 7970
Internet: www.thevendue.com/rooftop-bar
Email: info@thevendue.com

The Gin Joint

It goes without saying that the Gin Joint's primary attraction is the gin; however, it has much more to offer. Enjoy a formidable selection of mixed drinks and seasonal cocktails.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com
Address: 182 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 5pm–11pm, Fri & Sat 3pm–midnight, Sun 3pm–8pm
Phone: +1 843 577 6111
Internet: www.theginjoint.com
Email: drinkproper@theginjoint.com

The Belmont

The Belmont is a place full of character with a vast selection of hand-crafted cocktails. This swanky cocktail bar is the perfect choice for good wine, food, music and conversation. Black-and-white movies projected up onto the wall forge a one-of-kind atmosphere. Happy Hour is from 5pm to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

Photo: Allexxandar/Shutterstock.com
Address: 511 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 5pm–2am
Internet: www.thebelmontcharleston.com
Email: amybelmontchs@gmail.com

Tin Roof

Tin roof is known for always having something fun going on. The bar welcomes you every night with a wide variety of live music and karaoke. Nearly every evening comes with a special theme.

Photo: Vlasov Volodymyr/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1117 Magnolia Road, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 4pm–midnight, Sun noon–midnight
Phone: +1 843 571 0775
Internet: www.charlestontinroof.com

Tommy Condon's Irish Pub & Seafood Restaurant

The Charleston tradition of Tommy Condon's provides an experience modeled after a true Irish pub. It is a combination of a tranquil daytime atmosphere and dynamic, vibrant nights. There are 20 beers on tap and 15 local and craft brews.

Photo: Arina P Habic/Shutterstock.com
Address: 160 Church Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily 11am–2am
Phone: +1 843 577 3818
Internet: www.tommycondons.com
Email: info@tommycondons.com

Bay Street Biergarten

Are you longing for a well-cooled mug of amber delight? Your desire can be fulfilled right here. Bay Street provides the atmosphere of a traditional German beer garden developed in southern style. Enjoy Bavarian-influenced cuisine and beers on tap from all around the world.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com
Address: 549 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Wed–Sun 11am–midnight, Mon & Tue closed
Phone: +1 843 266 2437
Internet: www.baystreetbiergarten.com
Email: info@baystreetbiergarten.com

Pavilion Bar

The swanky Market Pavilion Hotel roof bar is Charleston's alfresco hot spot. This is a small oasis where you can enjoy the panoramic city, experience its spectacular sunsets and harbor views while sipping on cocktails in the lap of luxury. It's a nice place to sit and take it all in.

Photo: d13/Shutterstock.com
Address: 225 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Daily noon–10pm
Phone: +1 843 723 0500
Internet: www.marketpavilion.com/pavilionbar.cfm

The Cocktail Club

The Cocktail Club is a 1881 residence transformed into a handsome lounge with a rooftop terrace. Craft cocktails are made with artisan infusions, rare spirits, and farm-to-shaker ingredients, not to mention a lot of passion.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
Address: 479 King Street 200, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 5pm–2am, Mon closed
Phone: +1 843 724 9411
Internet: www.thecocktailclubcharleston.com
Email: thecocktailclub@theindigoroad.com

SHOPPING

SunKids/Shutterstock.com

At the Charleston City Market, you can find a variety of local vendors selling handmade sweetgrass baskets and crafts among many other treats. Walking along King Street in the historic district, you will find great shopping. There are three distinct areas: the design and dining area, the fashion district and the antiques shopping area. You can find everything you could want, from clothing to electronics and crafts. If you're in the mood for a bite to eat, King Street is also the place to find amazing restaurants ranging from fine dining to authentic, local favorites.

Charleston City Market

Open-air sheds and a great hall house over 140 merchants that peddle, among other goods, Lowcountry gifts and souvenirs. Dozens of local artists sell their merchandise here as well.

Photo: ARIMAG/Shutterstock.com
Address: 188 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 9:30am–5pm, Fri & Sat 9:30am–5pm / 6:30pm–10:30pm
Phone: +1 843 937 0920
Internet: www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com
Email: media@thecharlestoncitymarket.com

House of Sage

House of Sage stocks statement clothing that helps express individuality and style. If boho happens to be your thing, this place is a real find. Choose from natural cotton pieces, exquisite denim, and chic accessories.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com
Address: 51B George Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm
Phone: +1 843 573 7256
Internet: www.houseofsage.com
Email: thehouseofsage@gmail.com

Wonder Works

Wonder Works is a shopping spot that attracts both kids and adults. What makes the store so popular is the wide assortment of fun, high-quality toys, painting sets, gifts and books for all ages designed to liven up the imagination.

Photo: Aleph Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 188 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 9:30am–5:30pm, Fri & Sat 9:30am–6pm
Phone: +1 843 577 2422
Internet: www.wonderworkstoys.com
Email: magic@wonderworkstoys.com

King Street

Three shopping areas in one, King Street runs through the Design District, the Fashion District, and the Antique District. King Street is a commercial street overflowing with stores, restaurants, bars and many historic buildings.

Everything you need for a day out in Charleston.

Photo: Jake Warren/unsplash
Address: King Street, Charleston, SC

Tanger Outlets Charleston

Save stylishly at the Tanger Outlets of Charleston. Over 85 brands are represented here, such as Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, American Eagle Outfitters, Ann Taylor, Chicos, Banana Republic, Jos A. Bank, Michael Kors, Nine West, and more. Tanger Outlets is great for quality retail therapy.

Photo: nenetus/Shutterstock.com
Address: 4840 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–9pm, Sun 10am–7pm
Phone: +1 843 529 3095
Internet: www.tangeroutlet.com/charleston
Email: tangercomments@tanger.com

Mt. Pleasant Towne Centre

Mount Pleasant Towne Centre was voted 'Charleston's Best Shopping Destination.' With over 60 shops and restaurants, it is the largest open-air shopping center and a shopping must-do. There's also a 16-screen movie theater.

Photo: VannPhotography/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1218 Belk Drive, Mount Pleasant, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm
Phone: +1 843 216 9900
Internet: www.mtpleasanttownecentre.com

Citadel Mall

Citadel Mall features 5 major department stores: Belk, Dillard’s, Sears, JCPenney, and Target. There are also over 100 specialty stores, a food court, a 16-screen stadium cinema with IMAX, and an indoor children's play area.

Photo: MediaGroup_BestForYou/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2070 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm
Phone: +1 843 766 8321
Internet: www.citadelmall.net
Email: info@citadelmall.net

Freshfields Village

Freshfields Village is a mix of independent boutiques, restaurants, and businesses in a pleasant setting, which is also very bike-friendly. Freshfields hosts more than 60 free events annually. It is the perfect spot for family fun and enjoying the green surroundings.

Photo: oneinchpunc/Shutterstock.com
Address: 165 Village Green Lane, Kiawah Island, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 8am–6pm
Phone: +1 843 768 6491
Internet: www.freshfieldsvillage.com
Email: freshfieldsvillage@edens.com

Northwoods Mall

Northwoods Mall comprises over 130 stores, restaurants, and other businesses. Belk, Dillard’s, JC Penney, Sears, Northwoods Stadium Cinema, a play area and King Street

Grille are all onsite. Stores like Hollister Co., Gymboree, Yankee Candle, American Eagle, and Sephora are represented here as well.

Photo: ESB Professional/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2150 Northwoods Boulevard, North Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm
Phone: +1 843 797 3062
Internet: www.shopnorthwoodsmall.com

Hampden Clothing

Recognized by Vogue and Marie Claire magazines as one of the top boutiques in the country, Hampden stocks over 60 of the world's leading designers. Rag & Bone, Alexander Wang, and Rebecca Taylor are among the brands featured here.

Photo: antoniodiaz/Shutterstock.com
Address: 314 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm
Phone: +1 843 724 6373
Internet: www.hampdenclothing.com
Email: info@hampdenclothing.com

MIX Boutique

This upscale women's boutique showcases Southern designer collections. Designer clothing, footwear, jewelry, and accessories are all of the highest quality. There are multiple locations in Charleston and beyond.

Photo: FiledIMAGE/Shutterstock.com
Address: 317 King Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–7pm
Phone: +1 843 723 3838
Internet: www.shopcopperpenny.com

Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant

Since 1967, Gwynn’s of Mount Pleasant has been a luxury shopping destination in the Lowcountry, offering the best of modern design and stylish lines in men’s and women’s clothing, as well as accessories. Cosmetics, skincare goods and upscale gifts and home accessories are all offered.

Photo: Valua Vit/Shutterstock.com
Address: 916 Houston Northcutt Boulevard, Mount Pleasant, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun closed
Phone: +1 843 884 9518
Internet: www.gwynns.com
Email: shop@gwynns.com

TOURIST INFORMATION

Charleston Area CVB

Charleston International Airport (CHS)

Charleston International Airport, located in North Charleston, is South Carolina's largest and busiest airport. Major airlines operating here include Alaska Airlines, Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta, United, and others

Numerous taxi and shuttle services are available just outside of the terminal building. CARTA, the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority, offers non-stop bus services to and from downtown Charleston and the airport.

Photo: Taylor Flowe/unsplash
Address: 5500 International Boulevard 101, North Charleston
Phone: +1 843 767 7000
Internet: www.iflychs.com
Email: info@iflychs.com

Passport/Visa

Citizens of the Schengen countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Kingdom of Brunei can visit the United States for up to 90 days without applying for a visa, as well as citizens of Andorra, Lichtenstein, Monaco and San Marino. Citizens of these countries must obtain an ESTA, Electronic System for Travel Authorization, before traveling. All other travelers must obtain a visa before visiting the United States. International travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the country.

Photo: Global Residence Index/unsplash
Internet:
www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html

Best Time to Visit

The best times to visit Charleston, SC, are during the spring months, March to May, and fall from September to November. This is when milder temperatures and lower humidity levels create ideal conditions. In April, temperatures typically range from 10ºC to 20ºC, while November temperatures are slightly cooler, ranging from 10ºC to 15ºC.

The summer months, from June to August, represent Charleston's peak season, bringing warmer temperatures and higher humidity. Meanwhile, December through February is the city's low season, except for the holiday period, given its cooler temperatures and fewer crowds. Last but not least, Charleston's hurricane season typically runs from June 1 to November 30.

Photo: Tyrone Sanders/unsplash

Public Transport

Public transport in Charleston is managed by CARTA, the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority. Downtown Area Shuttles, known as DASH, provide free trolley access to major shops and attractions. Urban areas are also supported by fixed-route buses and mini-buses.

Photo: Xingchen Yan/unsplash
Phone: +1 843 724 7420
Internet: www.ridecarta.com

Taxi

Charleston is serviced by both ground and water taxi services. Charleston Cab Company provides reliable land service, while Charleston Water Taxi offers water travel options. Uber and Lyft also operate in the city.

Photo: Kenny Leys/unsplash
Phone: Charleston Cab Company: +1 843 566 5757
Internet: www.charlestoncabcompany.com

Post

Charleston has plenty of post offices throughout the city. Find the one near you.

Photo: Philippe Murray-Pietsch/unsplash
Address: 83 Broad Street, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11:30am–3:30pm, Sat & Sun closed
Phone: +1 800 275 8777
Internet: www.usps.com

Pharmacy

There are abundant locations of Walgreen's, CVS, Walmart, Target, and various independent chain store retailers. One Walgreen's location operates 24/7.

Photo: Towfiqu barbhuiya/unsplash
Address: 907 Folly Road, Charleston, SC
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +1 843 795 5452
Internet: www.walgreens.com/locator/walgreens-907+folly+rd-charleston-sc-29412/id=15630

Telephone

Country code: +1
Charleston area code: 843

Photo: Pawel Czerwinski/unsplash

Electricity

All power sockets in the United States provide a standard voltage of 110-120V with a standard frequency of 60Hz. Plug type A has two flat parallel pins.

Photo: Kelly Sikkema/unsplash

Population
156,868 (2024)

Currency
US Dollar, $1 = 100 cents

Opening hours
Most stores are open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm, or later. Bars and clubs tend to close around 2am.

Internet
www.charlestoncvb.com
www.charleston-sc.gov

Newspapers
Post and Courier: www.postandcourier.com
Charleston Gazette: www.wvgazettemail.com

Emergency numbers
911

Tourist information
Charleston Visitor Center
375 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC
Open daily 8:30am–5pm
+1 800 868 8118