Perfectly Pleasant

Get to know the quieter side of Charleston with a cross-harbor trip to Mount Pleasant

The quaint suburb of Mount Pleasant lies between busy Charleston and South Carolina’s tranquil island beach towns. Don’t overlook this charming Lowcountry town, though. Between its historic Old Village, which is home to buildings that date as far back as 1735, and its harborside scenery, there’s plenty of reason to spend a day (and a night) here before you head out to the sand and surf.

Do
Charleston and the Lowcountry are shaped and defined by their waterways—so what better way to explore than by boat? Nature Adventures leads kayaking tours along the coast and into various inlets, the most popular option being Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant. Depending on the conditions, a paddle here affords the opportunity to catch sights both natural (live oaks, dolphins, manatees, great blue herons) and man-made (the Old Village, Fort Sumter, and Red’s Ice House, a restaurant that once furnished shrimpming boats with ice). kayakcharlestoncc.com

Shop
A piece of locally made art is a far better souvenir than a palmetto T-shirt. Perspective Gallery is a nonprofit space that shows works from the roughly 40 artists in the Mount Pleasant Artists Guild. Whether it’s a scratchboard piece from Esther Piazza-Doyel, a still-life from Margaret De Carl Barry, or a watercolor from Jim Rowe, you’re bound to find something that speaks to you. mpa perspectivesgallery.com

Stay
Set in an 1896 building in a residential neighborhood just a short stroll from the marshes along Charleston Harbor, the Post House Restaurant and Inn reopened in August after careful restoration. Each of the hotel’s seven guest rooms is uniquely designed. Room 1, for instance, features William Morris’s Willow Boughs-patterned wallpaper, while Room 2 takes advantage of its corner location with two walls of oversized windows. From $185, theposthouseinn.com

Dine + Drink
When you’re ready for dinner, just head downstairs to a table at Post House’s tavern, where chef Nathan Hood (formerly of San Francisco’s three-Michelin-starred Quince) expertly prepares Southern food with a modern twist. Standouts include scallion hush puppies and a butterbean burger topped with a spicy carrot salad that’s so good you’ll forget it’s meatless. Afterward, enjoy a glass of wine at one of the bistro tables at Lea’s Old Village Wine Shop... or grab a bottle to go, since you’re only one block from your home for the evening. leaoldvillage.com