Top 10 Reasons People Love Charleston

Stellar Local Restaurants

You could go to Charleston just to eat, with so many choices. You could go to Charleston just to eat, there's something for everyone. Pay special attention to the chicken liver plate at Fig, okonomiyaki at Xiao Bao (picted) and of course, ridiculously juicy fried chicken at Martha Lou's.

All photos by Kathy YL Chan
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**Easy Day Trips**

One of the most popular day-trip destinations from Charleston is the resort town of Kiawah Island, an hour's drive south of the city. Spend the afternoon golfing or on the beach and cap off the visit with supper at The Ocean Room, a local favorite. If you're inclined to linger on, a night at The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island (the island's main property) is always a treat.
Fresh Seafood

Charleston is a haven for seafood lovers, with the sweetest oysters and the daily catch on the menu at nearly every restaurant. Favorites include the always busy Hank's Seafood (order the seafood platter), and Charleston Grill for its seductive uni and lobster pastas.
Historic Hotels...
Charleston’s classic hotels embody the notion of Southern hospitality—elegant furnishings, airy spaces, excellent service. Two iconic properties we love are Belmond Charleston Place and Planters Inn... which happen to be across the street from each other. How convenient.
...and Boutique Hotels

While the classic hotels are stunning, Charleston also offers a number of beautiful boutique properties. Apartment-style accommodations (perfect for a visit with friends) are featured at Restoration on King, just off the King Street shopping district, while Zero George hotel boasts 18 guest rooms tucked within five beautifully restored historic homes.
Biscuits

The beloved Callie’s Charleston Biscuits started as a mail order business, and finally opened a retail location this past summer. Locals and visitors alike line up at Callie’s Hot Little Biscuit for a treat straight from the oven—think sweet biscuits stuffed with fresh blackberry jam and savory creations paired with black pepper bacon.
Beautiful Walking Paths
Charleston is an ideal city to explore on foot—past 18th-century mansions along the waterfront, or down quiet streets dotted with boutique shops, restaurants, and cafés. Don’t forget to turn off the main road—little detours often lead to the best discoveries.
Access to Locally Grown Tea

Thirty minutes south of downtown Charleston is a pretty little spot called Wadmalaw Island. It’s home to the Charleston Tea Plantation (which was purchased by Bigelow Tea in 2003), and spread across 120 acres. The farm produces a variety of teas sold at retail outlets and served at restaurants throughout the city.
A Sense of Calm

This reason is especially relevant if you’re traveling from a big, bustling city. Charleston offers an innate sense of peace and calm, all against a beautiful pastel-colored backdrop.
You can’t help but slow down and take your time...perhaps stopping for a coffee at Black Tap, a luxurious lunch at Palmetto Cafè, or a scoop of cantaloupe-sun sorbet at Jeni’s King Street.

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