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City of Discovery

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Elliott House Inn

By Lauren Womack
Photos by Lauren Womack and courtesy of Explore Charleston

Charleston is a city that mixes world-class quality with Southern home tradition. Its streets are lined with foodie-favorite restaurants, and one of its best offerings is Low Country fried fish. It boasts the art galleries and specialty stores of any modern city, but evidence of its 300-year history can be found on every corner. For comfort and relaxation, as well as glamour and excitement, Charleston is the place to go. In the heart of the city is the historic Elliot House Inn. Built in 1861, this unique hotel stands in the heart of the city and is within walking distance of nearly every attraction and restaurant.

When it comes to entertainment, Charleston caters to many audiences. Sightseers can stroll the cobblestone streets and admire gorgeous churches throughout the city. Architecture buffs can tour historic homes, such as the Nathaniel Russell House, a Federal-style/Neoclassical house built in 1808. Shopaholics can wander the City Market for paintings, pottery and handmade baskets, or browse through the luxurious shops and boutiques on King Street. For those who crave the sand and sun, a trip to nearby Folly Beach is a relaxing way to spend the day. Take a walking ghost tour through the city for an entertaining introduction to its history. These tours tell the chilling stories of Charleston's past while discussing the major events that took place in the city. More daring guests can explore the abandoned city jail, where several ghosts are said to dwell. And when you're ready for a break, restaurants abound. Poogan's Porch, next door to the Elliot House Inn, is the place to go for a Saturday brunch of chicken and waffles or pulled-pork benedict. If you crave seafood, Dave's Carry-Out is a lunch-time must. Local college students, residents and tourists drop by to enjoy fresh fish and shrimp, fried to golden perfection. Need an afternoon snack? WildFlour Pastry will satisfy any sweet tooth (and budget). This bakery offers a selection of goodies including double chocolate cookies, savory scones and sweet pastries. Charleston also offers several excellent options for the dinner hour. The star of the moment is Husk, known for its Southern-sourced ingredients. Husk also houses an exceptional bar with drinks such as Charleston Light Dragoon's Punch (featuring Jamaican rum, peach brandy, black tea and lemon juice) and The Poor Woodcutter (a mix of scotch, brown sugar, smoked apple cider and tobacco bitters). Another local favorite is FIG — "Food is Good" — an outstanding choice for its seasonally inspired menu and innovative flavor combinations. The nine-vegetable salad is a standout, along with the ricotta gnocchi with beef bolognese. If you still have room for a late-night snack, try Kaminsky's Baking Co. for a milkshake to enjoy on the walk back to your hotel. After only a day or two, Charleston will leave you feeling like you have found a jewel of a city, one that you can't wait to return to. And no matter how many times you visit, there is always something new to discover.

Details

Elliot House Inn
 78 Queen St.
 843-518-6500
elliotthouseinn.com (<http://elliotthouseinn.com/>)

Nathaniel Russell House Museum
 51 Meeting St.
 843-723-1623
historiccharleston.org/Russell.aspx
<http://historiccharleston.org/Russell.aspx>

Charleston City Market
thecharlestoncitymarket.com (<http://thecharlestoncitymarket.com/>)

Ghost and Graveyard Walking Tour
 40 North Market St.
 843-722-8687
bulldogtours.com/charleston-ghost-graveyard-walking-tour
<http://bulldogtours.com/charleston-ghost-graveyard-walking-tour>

Haunted Jail Tour
 40 North Market St.
 843-722-8687
bulldogtours.com/the-haunted-jail-tour (<http://bulldogtours.com/the-haunted-jail-tour>)

Poogan's Porch Restaurant
 72 Queen St.
 843-577-2337
poogansporch.com (<http://poogansporch.com/>)

Dave's Carry-Out
 42 Morris St.
 843-577-7943

WildFlour Pastry
 73 Spring St.
 843-327-2621
wildfourpastrycharleston.com (<http://wildfourpastrycharleston.com/>)

Husk
 76 Queen St.
 843-577-2500
huskrestaurant.com (<http://huskrestaurant.com/>)

FIG
 232 Meeting St.
 843-805-5900
eatatfig.com (<http://eatatfig.com/>)

Kaminsky's
 78 Market St. N.
 843-853-8270
kaminskys.com (<http://kaminskys.com/>)

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