

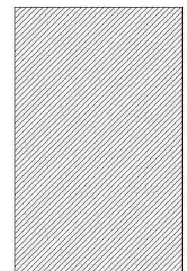
The Charlotte Observer

# Road Trips

WINTER ESCAPES

2013 TRAVEL GUIDE

- DRIVE-TO SKI SLOPES
- OUTDOOR LIGHT DISPLAYS
- HOLIDAY EVENTS





## Charleston

Charleston is known for rich history, celebrated restaurants and great shopping. Keep these allures in mind, turn down the temperature a little, and it's ready for your winter visit.

The city's varied venues are offering packed schedules this winter. For instance, **Woolfe Street Playhouse** ([www.woolfestreetplayhouse.com](http://www.woolfestreetplayhouse.com)) is the new theater home to the Village Repertory Co., an award-winning professional company.

The holidays are a special time in and around Charleston, with events including the **Holiday Festival of Lights** at James Island County Park, the 30th Annual **Spirituals Concert**, and Christmas 1860 at the **Edmondston-Alston House**. Details on these and other happenings can be found on one website:

[www.christmasincharleston.com](http://www.christmasincharleston.com).

Elegance and history will be on display at **Middleton Place** ([www.middletonplace.org](http://www.middletonplace.org)). Besides its Family Yuletide program, the plantation attraction's Grand Illumination will be staged Dec. 19-20: Lighted torches in the gardens will evoke Dec. 14, 1792 as re-enactors – portraying Middletons as well as Revolutionary War soldiers – re-create the family's celebration of its reunion at their home, and the arrival of American troops following the British evacuation of Charleston.

Other great upcoming events include the **Garden &**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

**Gun Jubilee** food-sport-antique shopping event (Dec. 6-8; [www.gardenandgunjubilee.com](http://www.gardenandgunjubilee.com)), **Charleston Restaurant Week** (Jan. 8-19; [www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com](http://www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com)) and the **Lowcountry Oyster Festival** (Jan. 26; [www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com](http://www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com)).

Charleston is beloved for its world-class dining, and there are always new and interesting restaurants opening. The menu of new possibilities this winter includes **Bay Street Biergarten** ([www.baystreetbiergarten.com](http://www.baystreetbiergarten.com)), **Charleston Harbor Fish House** ([www.charlestonharborfishhouse.com](http://www.charlestonharborfishhouse.com)), **Craftsmen Kitchen & Tap House** ([www.craftsmentaphouse.com](http://www.craftsmentaphouse.com)), **High Wire Distillery** (details on its Facebook page), **Indaco** ([www.indacocharleston.com](http://www.indacocharleston.com)), **Kitchen 208** ([www.kitchen208.com](http://www.kitchen208.com)), **Republic Garden & Lounge** ([www.republicreign.com](http://www.republicreign.com)) and **Verde** ([www.eatatverde.com](http://www.eatatverde.com)).

The opening of **Southern Season** ([www.southernseason.com](http://www.southernseason.com)) is one of many highlights of the Holy City's shopping scene this winter. Southern Season is famed in Chapel Hill for the wide variety of culinary-oriented merchandise,

and there's now a location across the Cooper River in Mount Pleasant. Renovated and better than ever, **Historic Charleston City Market** ([www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com](http://www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com)) is a great place to find that perfect Charleston souvenir or present. Look for famed sweetgrass baskets and culinary offerings from **Food for the Southern Soul** ([www.foodforthesouthernsoul.com](http://www.foodforthesouthernsoul.com)), where sauces, rubs, lunch (including a great barbecue sandwich) and more are on the menu.

There's an **organized tour** for practically everything in Charleston. New options include Free Tours by Foot – a “pay what you like” tour company ([www.freetoursbyfoot.com](http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com)) – and Your Call Private Boat Tours ([www.privateharbortours.com](http://www.privateharbortours.com)). Bulldog Tours ([www.bulldogtours.com](http://www.bulldogtours.com)) offers a variety of Charleston tours, including a special **Holiday Walking Tour** starting Dec. 1. — LS



CHARLESTON AREA CVB

**Don't miss the magnificent 60-foot Tree of Lights at Marion Square.**





CHARLESTONCULINARYTOURS.COM

**Charleston** Culinary Tours has added a Chef's Kitchen Tour, Thursdays evenings on upper King Street and Friday evenings in historic downtown Charleston.



CHARLESTON AREA CVB

**Middleton Place celebrates with a Family Yuletide program and the plantation's Grand Illumination.**