



Nothing could be finer: a stroll along Meeting Street

CAROLINA IN THE MORNING


THE BATTERY is the cherry on the Charleston sundae of history and architecture, and it's best experienced early, before the arrival of heat, tourists, and children's tantrums. Imposing antebellum mansions line the palm- and oleander-fringed promenade, named for its 18th-century artillery stores. It's a real neighborhood, as you'll see when the dogs of southern ladies and gentlemen pull on their leashes and come up for a sniff. While adults check out the gables and pastel hues of the houses, kids can scan Charleston Harbor for dolphins. Then, make



FAMILY TIME

Doing the Charleston

A KID-PLEASING COMBO OF HISTORY AND FUN By MARGARET LOFTUS

PLACE	THE SCOOP	DON'T MISS	ATLAS
Farmers Market at Marion Square	Is it Saturday? Then you'll find the locals here for their weekly supplies of shrimp, grits, and other Low Country bounty. (From April to December)	Hit Mike's for a bag of boiled peanuts, and Roti Rolls for sandwiches stuffed with mac and cheese or braised pig's head. Grown-ups, head to Barbara's for a basket made out of sweetgrass.	 <p>Charleston, S.C.</p> <p>The cobblestones that pave the city streets came from the ballast in the holds of colonial sailing ships.</p>
Old Exchange Building and Provost Dungeon	A historical twofor: The Constitution was ratified in this 18th-century building, and the Declaration of Independence was read from the balcony. (Tragic irony: Slaves were also sold nearby.)	Enter the actual dungeon where American patriot Isaac Hayne languished during the Revolutionary War. (The British later hanged him.)	
St. Philip's Church Cemetery	Really, you'll see dead people (or at least their tombstones), including notable Charlestonians such as DuBose Heyward, whose novel inspired the 1935 opera <i>Porgy and Bess</i> .	Look for the grave of Sue Howard Hardy, whose ghost was allegedly captured on film in 1987. Walk to neighboring Circular Congregational Church, a hot spot for creepy funerary art.	

history real: Remind the kids that the Civil War began here. Enter the Edmondston-Alston House (\$12 for adults; \$8 for kids) on the East Battery to stand in the spot on its piazza—one of the city's most commanding views of the harbor—where Confederate Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard watched the bombardment of **FORT SUMTER**. Then, get on the ferry to the fort. (Buy tickets beforehand online; tours leave from the maritime center; bring water and hats; \$18 for adults; \$11 for kids.)

FIRST PERSON

“Less touristy Sullivan’s Island has little or no waves to scare small kids and packed-down sand for biking. Bring a cooler and stay all day.”—KERRY SOLOMON, CHARLESTON RESIDENT