Welcome to the Island Life

Down the Atlantic Coast, from Charleston to Jacksonville, are some of the country's best-kept secrets. These little islands boast the perfect mix of laid-back beach style and southern charm. By Kelly Heitz
The Holy City

CHARLESTON HAS LONG BEEN A COLORFUL CITY OF INTRIGUE AND FRisson. FOUNDED IN 1670, THIS SOUTHERN CITY IS DEFINED BY ITS COBBLENECK STREETS, ITS PRE-CLASSIC WAR-PASTEL-COLORED HOMES, AND ITS ATMOSPHERIC HARBOR ALONGSIDE WATERFRONT PARK.

BY EVA PEDDERLY

CHANNEL GATSBY

© Inspired by the Roaring Twenties, The Spectator Hotel is nestled into the historic district of downtown. Upon arriving at The Spectator, guests receive a complimentary cocktail, as well as access to the hotel's bikes. The Spectator Hotel also has a bespoke butler service, where specialized professionals cater to every need and serve as gatekeepers to the city of Charleston. The Bar is a trendy cocktail lounge inside of the hotel inspired by the Jazz Age, where misting is crafted perfectly to keep guests cool.

WALK THROUGH HISTORY

© Founded in 1773, The Charleston Museum is recognized as the first museum in the United States. Tracing American history throughout the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the museum blends "beauty and pain, grace and war, great storms and calm seas." The goal of the museum is to educate visitors about the cultural and natural history of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Tickets to the museum are $12 for adults and $9 for children (under 2 are free). The Charleston Museum is open seven days a week.

THE ART GALLERY YOU WANT TO HANG OUT IN

© Located on Charleston's east side, The George Gallery on Eton Street features contemporary art and often has a trendy scene. Regularly host art openings with night crowds that spill onto the sidewalk.

The George Gallery is known for its acquisitions and its exhibits, with a fresh take on contemporary art. The April show will feature "Bounced Spaces," a show by two female artists from Memphis, Tenn. For additional information on upcoming exhibits visit georgegallery.com.

RESTORING OLD CHARLESTON

© Restoration on King is a boutique hotel that is located right in Charleston's famous King Street. Newly expanded and renovated, the restoration is no doubt in a prime Charleston location. For an added special touch, the Restoration's staff delivers breakfast every morning in a charming picnic basket to every guest's room.
**BRUNCH SO HARD**

Toast is a casual, semi-gy, non-descript restaurant located downtown that has one of the best breakfasts in Charleston. Arguably serving the best Eggs Benedict in the South, and perhaps the nation. Toast is also home of the Homemade Mimosa brunch. Toast is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The ingredients are served fresh and local with homemade products. For dinner, be sure to try the Fried Sweet Tea Chicken for Southern treat.

toastathome.com

**ASIAN FUSION**

Located in a converted gas station on Rutledge Avenue, Xiao Ban Biscuit serves up traditional multi-cultural Asian cuisine and specialty cocktails. Selecting dishes from China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, the menu changes seasonally with rotating daily specials and family style diners. Can’t decide? Try the Butter Curry, a braised lamb shoulder in a traditional butter curry sauce. It’s one of Xiao Ban Biscuit’s signature dishes.

xiaobanbiscuit.com

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**COASTAL BEACH GUIDE**

Your guide to the best beaches in the coastal South.

- **Folly Beach, South Carolina**
- **Tybee Island, Georgia**
- **Hilton Head, South Carolina**
- **Savannah, Georgia**
- **Savannah, South Carolina**

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**WINOS UNITE!**

Stop in the world, kneel in stress for an incredible wine blending and tasting experience.

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**UNWIND**

The Charleston Wine + Food Festival 2016 is a fantastic way to unwind and enjoy the best wine and food in South Carolina. No wonder it has been named one of the top food festivals nationwide! Don’t miss your chance to taste the best of the Lowcountry’s cuisine and the wines of the Southeast. Get your tickets now and join in on the fun.

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**CHARLESTON CITY MARKET**

Experience the vibrant atmosphere of the Charleston City Market, a lively marketplace with over 500 stalls selling everything from local produce and crafts to souvenirs and gifts. Explore the market’s many shops and boutiques, or take a leisurely stroll along the scenic Waterfront Park. Whether you’re looking for a unique souvenir or a delicious meal, the Charleston City Market has something for everyone.

The market is open from dawn to dusk, and is a must-visit destination for anyone traveling to Charleston. So come on down and experience the charm and beauty of the Charleston City Market for yourself!