Southern Comfort

When it comes to design, it's hard to argue with Charleston's appeal. Trad lovers find plenty to admire in the city's filled-to-the-rafters antiques stores, while modern aesthetes embrace the forward-leaning style that's on display in restaurants that are redefining what it means to be southern. So wonder it's the perfect place to book your next design weekend getaway. Here's what you need to know.
Where to Stay

Book a room at the recently renovated rooms at the historic Belmond Charleston Place, a Grand Hotel in the heart of the city's pulsing shopping district. From the moment you step through the doors, a sense of history pervades the space: above you, a 12-foot crystal chandelier punctuates a Georgian-style open-arm staircase in the lobby, and era-appropriate sconces and fabrics such as chintz greet you at every turn.

Pastel Pretty

It's easy to channel inspiration from a colorful street known as Rainbow Row. Here, 13 redbrick townhouses present a soothing palette and the kind of Old-World details we'd be happy to bring home.
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An insider's guide to the Holy City's best shops, restaurants, and places to stay.

Where to Stay and Eat
An indoor garden and living gallery wall is just one of the highlights at Belmond Charleston Place's light-filled Palmetto Cafe. We love the mix of mirrors and greenery paired with the restaurant's earthy wall tiles.

Where to Stay
Look one of the recently renovated rooms at the venerable Belmond Charleston Place, a Grande Dame in the heart of the city's pulsing shopping district. From the moment you step through the doors, a sense of history pervades the space: above you, a 12-foot crystal chandelier punctuates a Georgian style open arm staircase in the lobby; and era-appropriate tapestries and fabrics such as chintz greet you at every turn.
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Where to Stay and Eat
While most guest rooms offer plenty to write home about, it’s the cooking school that has editors as far as New York City and Los Angeles buzzing. Here, chef Randy Williams prepares a dessert made with brown sugar cornbread, macerated local strawberries, balsamic reduction, and basil-flavored whipped cream (it was delicious!).

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Where to Stay
If you’re looking for a quiet retreat just beyond the tourist throngs on King Street, you’d be hard pressed to find a nicer spot than Zero George Street, a gracious European-style boutique hotel that occupies five completely revamped 18th-century townhouses in the historic Ansonborough neighborhood.
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Where to Eat
Two keukenLadder actually straddles the neighborhoods of Cannonborough and Five Points, and at times it feels like the hyper-local restaurant and market has one foot in Berkeley, California (the site of Alice Waters’s Chez Panisse) and Brooklyn, New York. There’s even shelving made out of plumbing pipes.

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charlestonculinarytours.com
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Where to Eat
During his cooking session at Zero George, chef Randy Williams suggested we try Xiao Bao Biscuit for its Asian soul food. Not surprisingly, the menu did not disappoint.

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Where to Eat
Lonny editor Sarah Storms raved about dinner at Indaco, a rustic Italian restaurant on Upper King with sleek wood tables and industrial chic piping overhead.

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Where to Shop
In the antiques district, George C. Bilrlant & Co. is a go-to for the vintage-minded eントizer thanks to an efficiently displayed selection of sterling silver, glass, and copper tableware.

Where to Eat
Lowcountry farm-to-table dishes are the draw at The Macintosh, also on Upper King Street. Don't miss the vegetable salad, featuring local strawberries, beets, and zucchini, plus cornbread croutons. Afterward, find a spot on the plush chesterfield sofa next door at the restaurant's sister bar, The Cocktail Club.
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Where to Shop

However, Francophiles might prefer the mind-blowing assemblage of pieces at Alexandra French Antiques, a winding space filled with Regency-style gilded mirrors and perfectly weathered wood furniture.

Where to Shop

In a tiny space on the second floor of an old building on King Street, John Pope Antiques houses a small but beautifully curated collection. Side note: who knew orange walls could be so chic?