Want to Really Get to Know Charleston? Explore Its African American History.

Hugely inspired by the next city up the coast, Savannah, Charleston began life as a model of genteel, semi-European living. Known as the Holy City, it was created in 1670 by an English land speculator, Sir John Colleton. It became a major trading center, first for rice, then for indigo and tobacco, and it remained rich as a haven for the rich. After the Civil War, the city was slow to recover, but the traditions of its African American community, now known as the Gullah, have long been a source of inspiration and joy.

**Memorial Bethel African Union Church**

Located in the Old Charleston neighborhood, this sanctuary is a spiritual haven for both African American and mixed-race worshippers. It's also a place where the Gullah-Geechee culture is celebrated through music, dance, and cuisine.

**Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor**

This corridor encompasses the Lowcountry and its islands and includes more than 100 sites that are significant to African American history and culture. It begins in Charleston and extends to Savannah, Georgia, and includes numerous museums, galleries, and historic sites.

**Orange Mound United States Post Office**

The Orange Mound neighborhood is known for its vibrant arts community and its unique approach to revitalization. The Orange Mound United States Post Office is a symbol of the area's efforts to preserve and celebrate its heritage.

**Cotton Museum of Art**

Located in the Old Charleston neighborhood, the museum is dedicated to showcasing the art of African American artists, past and present. It's a great place to learn about the history and significance of African American art.

**The Charleston Hibernian Hall**

This historic building was once the center of social and cultural life for Charleston's elite. It's now a museum that celebrates the city's history and its rich African American community.

**The Charleston Museum**

Located downtown, this museum has a comprehensive collection of artifacts and exhibits that showcase the history and culture of Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry.

**The City Market**

This historic site is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. It's a vibrant marketplace that offers a wide variety of goods, from fresh produce to handcrafted goods. It's also a great place to experience the city's rich African American history and culture.