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Stylish Travel: Charleston, Boston's Southern sister city provides refuge

Erica Corsano Wednesday, February 10, 2016



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We recently ran a [travel feature](#) on the charming city of Charleston South Carolina-- and now that the bitter New England cold has officially set in, our minds are dreaming of that gorgeous Southern city by the sea once again. Jetblue offers direct flights to low-country, making it easy to plan your great escape ASAP.



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We present Charleston—part two:

Leisurely Lunch

Folks in Charleston are gifted with a duality that allows for having a laid-back vibe while actually getting stuff done. Lunchtime is sacred and not to be taken lightly. Maybe that's why there are so many quality spots to get a killer midday meal. Fast food be dammed!

Barony Tavern

Imagine if the hippest hipster you knew took over your great granddaddy's sitting room and dining area. This grand restaurant (serving mostly American fare) randomly tucked into a Renaissance Hotel, gives off an old school meets too-cool-for-school vibe. Think dark wood, antique curiosities, and a stuffed cast of characters in the form of odd taxidermy. It's the kind of place you might want to bring the big boys (and girls) for an old-fashioned power lunch—bourbon and all.

68 Wentworth Street, Charleston, (843) 297-4246, baronytavern.com

Eli's Table

For excellent food in a casual environment, hit up Eli's Table located on the quaint (and quintessential Charlestown) Meeting Street. Offering up modern takes on low country and continental fare, this charming locale uses as many local ingredients as possible, providing for an authentic and delicious meal. Try the croquet monsieur and thank us later.

129 Meeting Street, Charleston (843) 405-5115, elistable.com

Nosh away—healthy dining (yes, healthy)

It's hard to be health conscious while on vacation but many of us are really sticking to those healthy "New Year, New You" habits. For lighter fare in this Southern Mecca for rich food, seafood is always your best bet. Nom, nom, nom.

O-Ku

Usually, when you end up at a casual restaurant fusing flavors, the food can be a little scary. Not here. This sushi hotpot creates Asian cuisine with a Southern approach, importing fresh fish daily from places like Norway, Scotland, Hawaii, and New Zealand. The combination provides for some of the best sushi you'll ever taste—ever. *463 King Street, Charleston, (843) 737-0112, o-kusushi.com*

167 Raw

Opened by a bunch of College of Charleston friends from Mass and SC, this North-meets-South hotspot will make you feel right at home. Choose from a delectable raw bar or sink your teeth into their incredible lobstah' roll with huge chunks of lobster meat and a light aioli dressing.

289 E Bay Street, Charleston, (843) 579-4997, 167raw.com.

Day Trippin'

You could spend weeks exploring downtown Charleston alone, but make sure to schedule day trip (or four) to the stunning surrounding areas. Include local beaches and historic plantations on your itinerary.

Middleton Place

Get transported to another time and place inside this stunning estate. This National Historic Landmark is home to America's oldest landscaped gardens and has an impressive stableyard with free-grazing goats, sheep, horses, hogs, peacocks and water buffalo. Close your eyes for a moment and imagine yourself on a bustling

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plantation with pottery, weaving, blacksmithing, candle-dipping and open fire cooking. You'll also learn about how the rice seed became a hot commodity that put Charleston on the eighteenth century map as the wealthiest colonial city.

4300 Ashley River Road, Charleston, (843) 556-6020 or (800) 782-3608, middletonplace.org

(Tip: you can always pack gourmet snacks for the journey by stopping by foodie market, Caviar and Bananas pre-voyage.) 51 George Street, Charleston, (843) 577-7757, caviarandbananas.com)

Wild Dunes Resort

This kid-friendly Destination Hotel provides for a beachside escape with five-star service and plenty of activities (tennis, golf, classes). If you're with your friends, book a poolside cabana near the adults-only swimming pool or have the hubba, hubba handsome beach attendants set you up with chairs on the sand. From either, you have access to cocktail service. Sip, sip, relax.

5757 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, (888) 778-1861, wilddunes.com

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