

CHAMPAGNE LUXURY MEETS
LOWCOUNTRY LEISURE IN HISTORIC
CHARLESTON.

## GIRLS' GETAWAY SOUTHERN STYLE

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Charleston may be the perfect
destination wedding locale, but the
city's art, architecture, cuisine, cocktails and Southern charm also make
it a great spot for a pre-wedding
girls' getaway or mother-daughter
retreat. It's called the "lowcountry"
for a reason: The highest spot in the
city is about 12 feet above sea level.
In the lowcountry, the sea is in the
air...and shrimp and grits may very
well be on the plate!





ROOFTOP BARS rule in Charleston, and one of the city's newest hot spots is at the top of the luxurious Hotel Bennett. The bar, Fiat Lux, welcomes guests and visitors alike for creative cocktails and outstanding views. If you and your crew are guests of the hotel, you'll also have access to the rooftop pool...bonus! For an utterly effervescent experience, pop into Camellias, the hotel's delightful Champagne bar, where the Champagne isn't all that's pink...the bar's walls, floors, ceilings and furniture are painted, upholstered and draped in shades of rose, blush and petal-pink, making it the girliest of girlie hangouts. Recently rated by the Food Network as "the most Instagrammable restaurant in South Carolina," Camellias is as near to perfect a bachelorette-bash spot as you'll find

AT BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE you'll discover the ultimate in Southern gentility, along with lavish rooms, a rooftop bar (guests only), and the exclusive Club Level, where food and drinks are served throughout the day. Perhaps the best girls-getaway feature at this renowned property is its ultra-luxe spa, where facials and custom massages are performed in quiet privacy, and hair and makeup styling are elevated to an art form.

GATHER FOR COCKTAILS at the hotel's Thoroughbred Club, where live piano or jazz guitar entertain guests before dinner—and you will *definitely* want to have dinner at the Charleston Grill. One of the city's premier dining establishments happens to be located in this elegant hotel, and you and your girlfriends will not want to miss the famous crab cakes, scallops, aged steaks and local-farm-to-table vegetable dishes. This is clean-your-plate lowcountry food, beautifully reimagined and gorgeously served, and the wine selection and knowledgeable sommelier make this dining experience a highlight of any Charleston visit.

WHILE YOU WILL BE EATING and drinking a lot during your Charleston trip, make sure you and your squad get out and really take in this historical city. A horse-drawn-carriage ride is a necessity to get the "lay of the land," and the history of the town, all in an informative yet hilarious fashion. There are six routes to travel and each carriage ride is based on a "bingo"-type system where a ball chooses what route you experience. Feel free to

take more than one ride, because chances are that they will all be different. We recommend Palmetto Carriage Tours for their humorous delivery and deep knowledge of local lore, like the reason that Charleston houses sit sideways to the street facing the direction of the river. Hint: It's to capture the breeze on steamy days.

TAKE IN THE GIBBES MUSEUM OF ART, or a historical house tour of the Aiken-Rhett House, Nathaniel-Russel House or Edmondston-Alston House. All reflect Charleston architecture in unique ways, and each has a story to tell. The Preservation Society of Charleston is the oldest such organization in the nation, and features exclusive private home tours throughout the fall season. Reserve a space for you and your entourage to look inside today's Charleston family homes, and make sure to visit the Preservation Society's shop, which sells locally made items including Brackish bowties, and J. Stark bags and backpacks. You'll find grits, rice, cookware and other culinary items here, too.

KING STREET, where the shop is located, remains the primary shopping street in Charleston, although locally owned boutiques are found throughout the city. On King Street, galleries, antique stores, shoe stores, bridal boutiques and children's shops exist beside luxe outlets like Louis Vuitton and St. John as well as mid-priced retailers like Free People and Chico's. Get to Charleston the second Sunday of the month for an afternoon of shopping, music and street fun when most of King Street is open to pedestrians only.

KIAWAH ISLAND is another option for a luxe, leisurely getaway. At The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, enjoy the oceanfront pool or lounge on the beach, with full beverage and food service. Jasmine's Porch offers lowcountry dining with plenty of outdoor seating, and golf lodges around Kiawah feature everything from barbecue to seafood to steak. The Spa at The Sanctuary is first class, and you'll also find plenty of tennis courts, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and crabbing, to complete your Kiawah Island girls' getaway, and make memories—as you snap amazing photos—to last a lifetime.