

1 City 5 Ways

# CHARLESTON

THERE'S MORE  
THAN ONE WAY  
TO DISCOVER A  
DESTINATION  
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**CHARLESTON IS A CITY** meant for meandering. Poised on a peninsula surrounded by salt marshes, rivers, barrier islands and Charleston Harbor, it has a sprawling natural landscape rife with unique flora and fauna. The 350-year-old city has stories to spare, told through its commitment to art, architecture and multicultural cuisine (from traditional Gullah and Lowcountry soul food, French- and Asian-infused fine dining, fresh-off-the-boat seafood, barbecue and beyond). The Holy City's residents are perhaps its best storytellers, though, warmly welcoming visitors and inviting them to slow down and take it all in.

# CHARLESTON

## GIRLS' GETAWAY



### ◀WHERE TO STAY The Dewberry

In 2016, developer John Dewberry renovated this circa 1964 federal building, turning it into a hip midcentury-modern hotel. Enjoy the lavish spa, brasserie and complimentary bicycles for exploring downtown. [thedewberrycharleston.com](http://thedewberrycharleston.com)

### MORNING ▶ Callie's Hot Little Biscuit

It's hard to say what's more of a Southern staple at Callie's: the seven varieties of fresh-made biscuits or the grits. Order the grits in a biscuit bowl and you won't have to choose—just don't forget to add pimento cheese and roasted tomatoes. [calliesbiscuits.com](http://calliesbiscuits.com)



## HISTORY BUFF

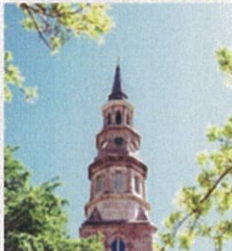
### WHERE TO STAY ▶ 1837 Bed & Breakfast

This meticulously preserved three-story Federal-style home (and its charming carriage house) features canopy rice beds, piazzas and claw-foot tubs. If only the original brick walls could talk. [1837bb.com](http://1837bb.com)



### MORNING ▶ Historic District

Take a carriage tour or wander by foot, visiting the Old Slave Mart Museum, the South Carolina Historical Society and the ornate downtown churches whose spires adorn the skyline and have given Charleston its nickname: The Holy City.



## INSTAGRAMMER



### ◀WHERE TO STAY The Restoration

Epitomizing Southern hospitality, this boutique hotel is a hot spot for socializing in its photogenic community spaces: a courtyard, rooftop pool, European-style café and a library with a nightly wine and cheese reception. [therestorationhotel.com](http://therestorationhotel.com)



### ◀MORNING Rainbow Row

One of Charleston's most iconic landmarks comprises 13 colorful homes on East Bay Street. Grab a to-go lunch at Goat Sheep Cow fromagerie a couple of blocks away after you 'gram your heart out. [explorecharleston.com](http://explorecharleston.com)

## WITH THE FAMILY

### WHERE TO STAY ▶ Wild Dunes Resort

From kids' marine biology classes to spa time and golf for the adults, everyone wins at this island resort. Rendezvous at one of six on-site restaurants to regale each other with your respective vacation adventures. [wilddunes.com](http://wilddunes.com)



### ◀MORNING South Carolina Aquarium

Ever wanted to feed a stingray? The aquarium offers up-close looks at its more than 5,000 animals, including bald eagles, horseshoe crabs and alligators. Visit the Sea Turtle Care Center to learn about the rehabilitation journey of these endangered creatures. [scaquarium.org](http://scaquarium.org)

## INQUIRING MIND



### ◀WHERE TO STAY The Inn at Middleton Place

Middleton Place is a national historic landmark that shares the story of colonial landowners and portrays the plight of the enslaved people who enabled Charleston's wealth. The inn is a striking building set among tall pines along the Ashley River. [middletonplace.org](http://middletonplace.org)

### MORNING ▶ Middleton Place

Learn about slaves' everyday lives and labor at Eliza's House. Stable yard interpreters demonstrate the skills that kept the plantation up and running. Wander through the opulent gardens to take in a rainbow of flower species. [middletonplace.org](http://middletonplace.org)



#### SHOP ▶ The Skinny Dip Designer Collective

After stocking up on funky jewelry and local artwork, head to the rooftop coffee and wine bar. Check the online calendar for the shop's pop-up events, including barre classes, trunk shows and DIY workshops. [shopthedip.com](http://shopthedip.com)



#### AFTERNOON

##### The Gibbes Museum of Art

Get lost exploring this downtown Beaux Arts museum. Highlights include the miniature portrait collection and Patrick Dougherty's woven-stick sculpture. [gibbesmuseum.org](http://gibbesmuseum.org)

#### EVENING ▶

##### The Citrus Club

The Dewberry's new lounge is perched upon the highest rooftop in the city. Come for the breathtaking view, stay for the citrus-inspired cocktails and the eye-popping artwork. [thedewberrycharleston.com](http://thedewberrycharleston.com)



#### LUNCH

##### Martha Lou's Kitchen

Martha Lou Gadsden is the real deal when it comes to traditional Lowcountry cuisine. Fried chicken and fish are the stars, but the sides and sweet tea won't disappoint. [marthalouskitchen.com](http://marthalouskitchen.com)



#### 4AFTERNOON Fort Sumter National Monument

Confederate soldiers fired on Fort Sumter in April 1861, sparking the start of the Civil War. At this monument, which also includes Fort Moultrie, historical interpreters are on hand to discuss cultural context. [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

#### EVENING ▶ Prohibition

Old-school cocktails, mood lighting and live jazz evoke a 1920s speakeasy, but the menu is decidedly modern. If you arrive in time for happy hour, you're in luck: Local Lowcountry oysters are \$1. [prohibitioncharleston.com](http://prohibitioncharleston.com)



#### LUNCH ▶ Angel Oak Tree

Head to Johns Island—the largest island in the state, about 25 minutes from downtown—to picnic in the shade of a living legend: a towering 66-foot-tall oak tree estimated to be between 400 and 1,500 years old. [discoversouthcarolina.com](http://discoversouthcarolina.com)

#### AFTERNOON Folly Island

On this barrier island, you'll find white sand beaches, seafood joints and a vibrant year-round farmers market, home to unique vendors selling everything from poke bowls to raw honey kombucha. [follybeachfarmersmarket.org](http://follybeachfarmersmarket.org)



#### 4EVENING

##### Salt Marsh Boat Tour

Savor a signature Technicolor Charleston sunset alongside wild bottlenose dolphins, cranes and other wildlife. Tideline Tours offers boat cruises and kayak tours throughout the island's salt marshes. [tidelinetours.com](http://tidelinetours.com)

#### LUNCH ▶

##### Rodney Scott's BBQ

James Beard award winner Rodney Scott goes whole hog—literally—when it comes to barbecue. The South Carolina-raised chef slow-smokes his pigs all night long to create his signature smoky goodness. [rodneyscottsbbq.com](http://rodneyscottsbbq.com)



#### AFTERNOON ▶

##### Joe Riley

##### Waterfront Park

Relax on the pier's family-sized swings, watch cruise ships go by, stroll around the pineapple fountain and cool off in the wading area. Look closely and you might catch a glimpse of an egret roosting on the banks.



#### DINNER The Ordinary

Nothing brings a family together like the task of consuming an entire shellfish tower. This self-professed "fancy seafood" hall and oyster bar has just about every imaginable combination of seafood and equally fancy vegetarian options. [eattheordinary.com](http://eattheordinary.com)

#### LUNCH ▶ Swig & Swine

Barbecue sauce is a hot topic here: Some swear by the mustard-based concoction unique to the south-central swath of South Carolina, while others opt for vinegar, tomato, jalapeño or Alabama white varieties. Try them all at this wood-smoke joint. [swigandswinebbq.com](http://swigandswinebbq.com)



#### AFTERNOON ▶ Charleston City Market

Do a deep dive into Lowcountry African heritage with local company Gullah Tours, run by Alphonso Brown. At the market, artisans teach guests to sew sweetgrass baskets using locally harvested marsh grass. [thecharlestoncitymarket.com](http://thecharlestoncitymarket.com), [gullah tours.com](http://gullah tours.com)

#### DINNER Xiao Bao Biscuit

This cozy multicultural eatery sits in a converted gas station and serves family-style comfort food with Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese, Thai and Vietnamese influences that are reflective of the city's growing Asian population. [xiaobaobiscuit.com](http://xiaobaobiscuit.com)

