

The Best of Charleston

Getting There

Charleston International Airport is served by Delta, United, American, Jet Blue, Alaska and Southwest Airlines. Driving, I-26 takes you right to Downtown Charleston.

Geographical Overview

The “Peninsula” is Old Historic Downtown Charleston. This is where our conference hotel, The [Francis Marion Hotel](#), is located. The Peninsula is bounded by the Cooper River to the East and the Ashley River to the West. Thus, surrounding areas, all part of “The Lowcountry” are referred to as West of the Ashley or East of the Cooper. Charleston Harbor is formed where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers join to form the Atlantic Ocean (at least this is what Charlestonians think). Old Plantations and Barrier Islands can be found in either direction.

Getting Around

The Peninsula itself is totally walkable; you do not need a car. Besides walking, there are cabs, trollys and Peditabs that are very reasonable or free. To explore the barrier islands, beaches, golf courses and plantations, you would need a car; or, you could take a tour.

Holiday Events

- ✿ Arriving or staying through Friday listen to [the Sound of Charleston](#)
- ✿ [Charleston holiday events](#) look amazing!
- ✿ [Plan your downtime](#) pre or post conference.
- ✿ See the [Festival of Lights](#) while you are there.
- ✿ [Holiday Festivities](#) are scheduled.
- ✿ [Magic](#) is in the air.
- ✿ [Seasonal Markets](#) the market is right across the street from our hotel.
- ✿ [Holiday Parade](#) begins at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3, 2017
- ✿ Sunday, December 3, 2017 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - [Tree Lighting Ceremony](#)



What to See and Do

Focus on your passion: Art, History, Food, Religion, Culture, Recreation ~ [Trip Advisors Top Choices](#)

[Waterfront Park](#) beautiful, free, has swinging benches and goes out into the Harbor. Take a picnic and stay a while.

[Emanuel AME Church](#) this is a very historical and influential church in Charleston’s history – long before the shootings in 2015 will be the site of our Experiential Learning Opportunity. Very close to the Francis Marion hotel.

[SC Aquarium](#) great, especially with children.

[Gullah Tours](#) this is a downtown tour, though most of the Gullah people lived on barrier islands south of Charleston. There are also [African American History Tours](#) and [Plantation Tours](#), the most popular ~ Boone Hall.

[Water Taxi](#) you could take an expensive [harbor tour](#) or a boat to [Ft. Sumter](#), but a round trip ride on the Water Taxi is a nice, inexpensive way to get out on the harbor. Try it early in the morning with your coffee. It stops at the Waterfront Park, near the Aquarium, and across the Harbor in Mt. Pleasant.

The downtown peninsula has a couple of areas filled with art galleries such as this [Jonathan Green](#), a favorite, and this, [Anglin Smith](#), another favorite. You can easily see these just walking around.

For recreation, there are a ton of [golf courses](#), and lots of [Sailing and Fishing Charter options](#).

Where to Eat

There are many, many great places to eat in Charleston! The seafood is particularly fresh and good. The southern cooking is sublime. [America's Best Food Cities: Charleston](#) Here are just a few:

-  [McCrary's Tavern](#)
-  [Husk](#)
-  [Fig](#)
-  [The Ordinary](#)
-  [Hominy Grill](#)
-  [Magnolias](#)
-  [Martha Lou's Kitchen](#)
-  [Pearlz Oyster Bar](#)
-  [Xiao Bao Biscuit](#)
-  [Lewis Barbeque](#)
-  [Edmund's Oast](#)
-  [The Obstinate Daughter](#)

For the Foodie – “Some would say Charleston tastes as good as it looks!” [Charleston Culinary Tours](#)

-  <https://www.thrillist.com/eat/charleston/the-10-best-charleston-restaurants-for-shrimp-grits>
-  <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/plan-your-trip/dining-nightlife~124/#>
-  <http://www.417mag.com/417-Magazine/May-2013/A-Foodies-Tour-of-Charleston-South-Carolina/>
-  <http://charleston.eater.com/maps/best-new-charleston-restaurants-heatmap>
-  <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/south-carolina/articles/charleston-s-10-must-try-restaurants-south-carolina-s-foodie-capital/>
-  <https://www.tastingtable.com/dine/national/charleston-south-carolina-city-guide-travel-guide-best-restaurants-best-bars>
-  http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/style/2015/04/07/the-search-for-americas-best-food-cities-charleston-s-c/?utm_term=.3a247b7c3706
-  <http://www.bonappetit.com/restaurants-travel/city-guides/slideshow/where-to-eat-charleston-south-carolina-2>
-  <http://www.foodandwine.com/articles/charleston-restaurants>

For the Planner:

-  <http://www.things-to-do-in-charleston.com/charleston-december-events.html>
-  [Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
-  <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/plan-your-trip>
-  http://travel.usnews.com/Charleston_SC/Things_To_Do
-  <http://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/the-best-things-to-do-in-charleston-sc>
-  www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/charleston-us-sc-char.htm

 www.bestofcharlestonsc.com/best-things-to-do-in-charleston-sc-attractions

 www.things-to-do-in-charleston.com/

Must Sees:

 Drayton Hall Plantation <http://www.draytonhall.org/visit/adult-group-tours>

 Fort Sumter <https://www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm>

 Middleton Place Tour and Dinner -<https://www.middletonplace.org/groups/education.html>

Ongoing Happenings:

 [Charleston Farmer's Market](#)

 [Wine Stroll Wednesdays at Middleton Place](#)

 [Sound of Charleston](#)

 [Second Sunday on King Street](#)

 [Sippin' Saturdays at Irvin-House Vineyards](#)

Tours: Walking tours, there are many. Or, you can just go out on your own and walk around.

Evening Walking Tours – 1&1/2 at night broadstreettours.com

 Ghostly Walking Tour: \$20

 Tombstone Tales Walking Tour: \$20

Day Trips in Charleston also, visit <http://www.things-to-do-in-charleston.com/charleston-day-trips.html>

 [Charleston Favorites](#)

 [Historic Charleston](#)

 [History Buff](#)

 [Foodies Delight](#)

 [The Shop-a-holic](#)

 [Riding in Style](#)

 [Sunny Side Up](#)

 [All in the Family \(Things to do with Kids!\)](#)

Charleston, SC is centrally located between some of the greatest cities in the southeast, making day outings from Charleston a favorite pastime among travelers. It is very easy to lay your head in Charleston and still spend quality time at one of the great nearby cities. Listed here are locations that are all about a two hour drive away. Click on the great southern cities below to get information about its location:

 [Hilton Head Island, SC](#) - 2 hours and 17 minutes/ 116 miles South of Charleston

 [Myrtle Beach, SC](#) - 2 hours and 2 minutes/ 98 miles North of Charleston

 [Savannah, GA](#) - 2 hours and 6 minutes/ 108 miles South of Charleston

 [Columbia, SC](#) - 1 hour and 56 minutes/ 114 miles West of Charleston

 [Folly Beach, SC](#) -19 minutes/ 11.5 miles South of Charleston