

DISCOVER Charleston

New daily service from Reagan National to Charleston, SC, starts June 19!



Coasting Around Charleston

Charleston, South Carolina, one of the country's oldest cities, is also one of the hottest "new" destinations. Sure, it's still a place filled with traditional Southern charm and hospitality, plus oodles of history. But during the past decade, Charleston has been burgeoning with nationally celebrated restaurants, funky shopping districts, and ever-expanding options for summer fun in the sun.



Of course, history just oozes from the cobblestone streets of the city, which dates back to the 1600s. There's no doubt that the past is always present in Charleston. Just wander down pedestrian-friendly lanes through the impeccably preserved historic district, or take a gander at 300-year-old church steeples from the seat of a horse-drawn carriage. No matter how you travel, you'll be taking a journey through the very origins of the United States.

The area's mansions and plantations showcase this American life. Just northwest of the city, there is a five-mile stretch of road featuring not one, not two, but three spectacular riverfront plantations. **Magnolia Plantation & Gardens** is the oldest tourist site in the area, dating back to 1676. It's an engaging place for the whole family, with boat tours, nature tram rides, and swamp walks, among other ways to explore.

Back in town, the Battery is perhaps Charleston's most iconic feature. Antebellum mansions overlook **Charleston Harbor**, and **Battery Park** is lined with palmetto trees, statues, and cannons dating from the Civil War. You can also catch sight of **Fort Sumter** from the park. To get to the island on which the fort stands, you can take a scenic, 30-minute ferry ride. National Park Service rangers can provide the background of the place where Confederate forces fired the first shots of the Civil War on April 12, 1861.

Lest you are beginning to feel you are wandering through a scholarly history lesson, be assured that there's more to Charleston than its past. It's also about the great outdoors. Get refreshed by sea breezes in one of the area's five distinctive beach towns. **Folly Beach**, with a laid-back vibe, and **Sullivan's Island**, a seaside village at the entrance of Charleston Harbor, are perfect locales for families. **Isle of Palms** and **Kiawah** and **Seabrook**



and locals alike seek out the freshest produce at the Charleston Farmers Market in **Marion Square** every Saturday. The **Historic Charleston City Market**, open every day of the week (and weekend nights), features fresh food and regional music and crafts like Gullah paintings and sweetgrass baskets. Built in 1804, it is one of the country's oldest public markets.

Also blending old and new is the shopping district along King Street. During the past few years, art galleries, fashion and home boutiques, and trendy restaurants have opened in historic 18th and 19th century buildings along Upper King, while Lower King is known for its stellar antique shopping.

With so much to do in Charleston, there's no time to lose. Fortunately, Charleston International Airport is just 20 minutes from downtown. Take advantage of JetBlue's new daily service from Reagan National Airport and start your vacation right away.

Islands all sport magnificent beaches, upscale resorts and rentals, and world-class golf.

Charleston's food scene has positively exploded during recent years. Charleston culinarians won the James Beard Foundation Best Chef Award three years running, starting in 2008. Many restaurants pay homage to the legacy of Southern and Low Country cuisine, while incorporating modern farm-to-table and sea-to-table concepts. Top chefs

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