

# CHARLESTON, South Carolina

## *Experience life in the Lowcountry!*

The city of Charleston is located on Oyster Point in the Charleston Harbor, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean formed by the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Founded in 1670, Charleston is the oldest and second-largest city in the State of South Carolina, making it a place where history comes alive.



*Southern Living* labeled Charleston as "the most polite and hospitable city in America" in 2013. Internationally recognized that same year for its outstanding food and dining, beaches, golf courses, parks, and gardens, Charleston certainly deserves the honor of being named **#1 City in US and Canada** by *Travel+Leisure* for the third consecutive year.

Find out more about the most hospitable city in America:

- **Charleston, South Carolina Official Site** <http://www.charleston-sc.gov>
- **Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** [www.charlestoncvb.com](http://www.charlestoncvb.com)
- **Charleston City Paper** [www.charlestoncitypaper.com](http://www.charlestoncitypaper.com)

## **CHARLESTON: Sports & Recreation**

Baseball enthusiasts, rejoice! This city is the home of the Charleston Riverdogs, a Class A South Atlantic League team and affiliate of the New York Yankees. And baseball is not the only sport represented in Charleston. The city is also home to the South Carolina Stingrays, a member of the East Coast Hockey League, and hosts the Family Circle Tennis Cup, the largest women's-only tennis tournament in the world.

For those who would rather play sports than watch, Charleston offers a variety of recreational opportunities. The Family Circle Tennis Center boasts 17 courts and offers full memberships, while the Cooper River Bridge Run and the Charleston Marathon draw athletes to test their endurance in a beautiful, historic setting.

For the outdoor enthusiast, the Charleston area provides opportunities for hiking, fishing, and much more. Explore the Francis Marion National Forest; stand in awe of the Angel Oak – a 1,400-year-old live oak tree; drop your line in the water at Folly Beach Fishing Pier; learn about the area’s wildlife at the Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest, the Center for Birds of Prey, and the South Carolina Aquarium; or just walk one of the city’s many green spaces (listed below).

- Hampton Park
- Isle of Palms County Park
- James Island County Park
- Kiawah Beachwalker Park
- Folly Beach County Park



## Arts & Entertainment

### Historic Charleston Foundation

108 Meeting Ste  
Charleston, SC 29401



Established in 1947, the Historic Charleston Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Charleston’s rich historical and cultural character. It also seeks to educate the public on the unique and rich heritage of the Low Country. Located in downtown Charleston, this is a quick stop to learn about the region as well as enjoy the local antiques and crafts market house right nearby.

**Magnolia Plantation & Gardens**

3550 Ashley River Rd  
Charleston, SC 29414

Magnolia plantation was founded in 1676 by the Drayton family. As such it has witnessed centuries of American history. This is the oldest public tourist site in the Low Country, and the oldest public gardens in America. Tour the house to learn about plantation life and the history of slavery. Then take a relaxing stroll through beautifully landscaped gardens.

**Festivals and Events**

Explore Charleston's engaging culture in one of many the city's many fairs and events! Come see what the Lowcountry Oyster Festival is all about; explore the city's historic beauty at the Festival of Houses and Gardens; experience Charleston's artistic side at the Spoleto Performing Arts Festival. If none of these piqued your interest, don't worry. The city hosts many other unique events, including the MOJA African American Arts Festival, the Taste of Charleston, the Holiday Festival of Lights, Charleston Fashion Week, the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, the Charleston Food and Wine Festival, and others.

## Museums and Historical Sites of Charleston

### **Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum on Charleston Harbor** (Home of the USS Yorktown)

40 Patriots Point Rd  
Mount Pleasant, SC  
29464

Home to the USS Yorktown, Patriots Point is one of South Carolina's most distinct tourist attractions.

Learn about this and several other ships in an interactive and hands

on manner that children and adults will enjoy.



### **The Hunley** (first successful combat submarine)

1250 Supply St  
North Charleston, SC 29405

The *H.L. Hunley* had the distinction of being the first submarine to sink an enemy ship, but sadly disappeared a short time later. Visit the museum that is now dedicated to the historic preservation of this historic ship.

### **Charleston Pirate Tours**

79 Cumberland St  
Charleston, SC 29401

Learn about the Low Country's Pirate legacy with one of these unique character tours. Authentically costumed guides will lead your walking tour and bring the Golden Age of Piracy to life!

Other interesting historical sights in Charleston include [Charles Towne Landing Historic Site](#), [Charles Pinckney National Historic Site](#), and the [Boone Hall Plantation](#).