With its acclaimed restaurants, soul-stirring landscapes, vibrant culture, and exquisitely preserved Antebellum wonders, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, exudes a gravitational pull for travelers as the one American South city they absolutely, positively must visit.
CHARLESTON, S.C.

A CITY OF MANY CHARMS

St. Philip’s Church

ICONIC FLAVORS
Born of pristine local waters, an oyster’s briny kiss is served at scores of noted restaurants across the city.

CELEBRATED TASTEMAKERS
An energized community of chefs and purveyors cater to Charleston’s breadth of acclaimed restaurants.

SERENE SEASIDE ENCLAVE
An idyllic place with a leisurely-paced lifestyle, Charleston is known for its balmy breezes and veil of hazy, golden light.
CHARLESTON has fixed coordinates. You may locate it on a map, where it has appeared for the past 343 years. Yet, this beguiling place truly exists somewhere else entirely—it abides in the hearts and minds of those who have strolled the tree-lined streets of this jewel box city.

Lulled by perfumed air and a languid pace, Charleston is an unexpectedly seductive place. The city gazes at the Atlantic Ocean amid a saltmarsh palate rich in straw-ruffled and cerulean hues. A heady aroma of secret gardens winks at briny sea breezes. Locals lovingly call it the Lowcountry, an idyllic place that etches its imprint on visitors.

One of America’s most architecturally significant destinations, Charleston’s chronology is evident at every turn. Cobblestone streets and copper carriage lanterns wear the polish of several centuries, a burnished roadmap through time.

At the very heart of Charleston is a genteel community known for its warm hospitality. A friendly nod and a sincere ‘welcome’ await.

SOUTHERN CHARM
SPLENDIDLY MADE
The area is home to a coterie of designers who capture the essence of Charleston style with their jewelry, clothing, and home decor collections.

Dress the part with lovely pieces from Croghan’s Jewel Box, Troubadour Clothing and Candy Shop Vintage.
In 1934, George Gershwin decamped to the bohemian wilds of Folly Beach, a small windswept island near Charleston. For the Brooklyn-born composer accustomed to the bright lights of Broadway and flocks of adoring fans, the lolling Lowcountry lifestyle was like functioning in outer space.

Gershwin arrived by train at the invitation of Charlestonian DuBose Heyward, author of the novel _Porgy_, and they spent the summer setting the tale of Charleston’s “Catfish Row” to music.

The pair absorbed the joyous bedlam of church revivals and dulcet tones of Gullah spirituals, which Gershwin melded into the _Porgy and Bess_ score.

Toast Charleston’s pretty skyline (dotted with church steeples, not skyscrapers) with a cocktail under the stars at The Pavilion Bar, Stars Rooftop and Rooftop at The Vendue.

Other popular spots include Prohibition, Cocktail Club, Husk, Victor Social Club, Royal American and Bay Street Biergarten.

Watch _Summertime_, the hauntingly beautiful aria from _Porgy and Bess_ come to life at CHARLESTONLY.COM.
DINE

Since its founding in 1670, Charleston has enjoyed a well-earned reputation for setting sumptuous tables laden with unique Lowcountry cuisine. Today, dozens of noted restaurants, including Circa 1886, FIG, Charleston Grill, The MacIntosh, Husk, Cypress, Slightly North of Broad, and Peninsula Grill, showcase fresh seafood, local produce, and heirloom recipes to create sophisticated interpretations of classic southern dishes.

EAT, MEET & MINGLE

Experience a side dish of kismet when seated with impromptu dining companions at a lively community table, like the ones found at Butcher & Bee, Coast, Cru Cafe, Edmund’s Oast, Hall’s Chophouse, and Hank’s Seafood Restaurant.
Like the dazzling blue-green-gold plumage of a peacock, sprawling 17th century plantations fan out across Charleston. The groves of azaleas and camellias at Magnolia Plantation are among the largest collections in the nation. At nearby Middleton Place, the sixty-five acres of parterres and verdant terraces are among America’s oldest landscaped gardens. The austere grandeur of Drayton Hall is a glorious example of Georgian Palladian architecture. The allée of grand oaks at Boone Hall delights fans of The Notebook, which filmed scenes at the picturesque plantation.
Luxuriate amid the Old World splendor of handsome antiques and heirloom silver at a historic inn. Or, tuck into a boutique property located a short stroll from shops and restaurants. Charleston’s acclaimed hotels cater to travelers who desire the finest experiences imaginable.

In 2014, CONDE NAST TRAVELER gave Readers’ Choice Awards to ten local hotels, including John Rutledge House Inn, Wentworth Mansion, French Quarter Inn, Belmond Charleston Place, HarbourView Inn, Market Pavilion Hotel, Restoration on King, Mills House Wyndham Grand, The Sanctuary, and Planters Inn.
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EXPLORE & SHARE.

WANT INSIDER TIPS on ways to experience Charleston like a local?

For travel itineraries, chef profiles, special features, beautiful videos, and photographs of the area’s many charms, visit Charlestonly.com.

Charleston
SOUTH CAROLINA

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