

## **2010 Charleston 4-Day Itinerary**

The first permanent English settlement in the Carolinas and home to the opening shots of the Civil War, Charleston is one of America's most historic and picturesque cities.

The Holy City (so-nicknamed for the church spires that dominate its Lowcountry skyline) also is frequently listed among the top destination choices by travel magazines and Web sites and by their readers.

Here is a sample itinerary. For more, visit [www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com](http://www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com) or [www.ExploreCharleston.com](http://www.ExploreCharleston.com).

**Day 1: Downtown Don't Misses:** Downtown carriage tour, City Market (sweetgrass baskets), Fort Sumter, South Carolina Aquarium.

**Day 2: The Museums & More:** The Museum Mile and historic houses, the Battery, Galleries & Shopping.

**Day 3: Up the Ashley:** Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Middleton Place Plantation, Magnolia Plantation & Garden, Drayton Hall.

**Day 4: Check out the Cooper:** Patriots Point, Fort Moultrie, Boone Hall and Pinckney's plantation.

### **Details, Details ...**

Cobblestone streets, historic homes, haute cuisine, beautiful beaches and a wealth of history – that's Charleston, SC. Explore the history of this charming city by foot or horse-drawn carriage. Be sure to check online or by phone with your specific destination to verify days and hours of operation before making final plans.

**Day 1:** A horse-drawn carriage tour, complete with engaging guide, is a great way to get introduced to downtown Charleston, its classic architecture, deep history and its historic neighborhoods. Available by reservation or just walking up, there are a number of operators, including these: [Classic Carriage Tours](#), [Old South Carriage Tours](#), [Palmetto Carriage](#) and [Olde Towne Carriage](#). Check out the shops and local vendors – including the sweetgrass basket makers – at the [City Market](#) and then head over to Liberty Square. The National Park Service museum there provides the background for the ferry trip out to [Fort Sumter](#) in the harbor. Next door to the museum is the [South Carolina Aquarium](#), a dramatic, waterfront structure that's home to thousands of sea creatures and freshwater displays that together tell the story of natural South Carolina from the mountains to the sea.

**Day 2:** [The Museum Mile](#) is a one-mile stretch of Meeting Street that features six museums (including America's first public museum, the Gibbes Museum of Art and the Old Slave Mart), five nationally important historic houses, four parks and a

Revolutionary War powder magazine, as well as numerous historic houses of worship and public buildings, including the Four Corners of Law. Make sure to take a stroll along the harbor at the Battery, one of America's most photographed and painted row of homes, and then check out the high-end shops and galleries of King Street, East Bay Street and the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Day 3:** Charleston is well known for its plantations. A full day can be devoted to the Ashley River side of things, beginning with [Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site](#), where English planters, their slaves and indentured servants, landed in 1670 after sailing from Barbados. Their story is told there with an interactive museum, naturalistic zoo, ongoing archaeological digs, replica sailing ship and living quarters and living history programs that can include real cannon and musket firing. Then it's up the river for a drive along the Ashley River National Scenic Byway, home to [Drayton Hall](#), [Middleton Place](#) and [Magnolia Garden](#) plantations, each a unique, historic property that includes some of America's oldest formal gardens, a near-original house dating to the 1740s, and homes of signers of the Declaration of Independence and Ordinance of Secession. Guided and self-guided tours include live oaks and Spanish moss, homes, gardens, river marsh and deep-woods swamp.

**Day 4:** The Cooper River side of Charleston can provide a whole day of exploration, beginning with the spectacular drive over the Ravenel Bridge, the longest cable-stayed span of its kind in North America. Stop by [Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum](#) to check out the carrier Yorktown and chat with the old salts who still volunteer their time on the berthed warrior. And don't miss the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum while there. A short drive away is [Fort Moultrie](#) on Sullivan's Island at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. There, in 1776, British shells bounced off the palmetto logs of the Patriots' fort, an event memorialized on South Carolina's familiar state flag. Then check out [Boone Hall Plantation](#), one of America's oldest continuously working farms and home to the iconic avenue of live oaks that gave inspiration to the makers of "Gone with the Wind." A row of brick slave cabins also tells the site's story. Nearby is the [Charles Pinckney National Historic Site](#). It's the picturesque remains of the Sneec Farm plantation home of a signer of the U.S. Constitution and South Carolina governor who also hosted President George Washington for breakfast there in 1791.

### ***Now, to Eat and Sleep:***

Of course, dining will be a major part of your trip, and Charleston has gained an international reputation for haute cuisine and traditional Lowcountry favorites. One place to begin that exploration is at [www.charlestandining.com](http://www.charlestandining.com). And for hotels, the search can begin with the Charleston hotels page on the [South Carolina Information Highway](#). The [Charleston Area Convention and Visitor Bureau](#) also provides detailed information on the dining and hotel, motel and historic inn options in Charleston.

