

CAROLINA COMMERCIAL, LLC



A Visitor's Guide to *Charleston, SC*

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Charleston is a seaport city in the state of South Carolina in the United States of America. Its historic downtown is on a peninsula formed by two rivers, Ashley and Cooper, flowing into the Atlantic, and protected from the open ocean by surrounding islands. Charleston was captured in the Civil War without much property damage, so the historic part of town has buildings that are hundreds of years old. The current downtown skyline, with practically no tall buildings due to the city's height restriction ordinance, is dominated by church steeples and the stunning Arthur Ravenel cable-stay bridge completed in 2005 over the Cooper River. The city is a major port on the eastern seaboard of the US and a popular destination for domestic and international tourists.

UNDERSTAND

Charles Towne, as it was first called, was established in 1670 by Anthony Ashley Cooper on the west bank of the Ashley River, Charles Towne Landing, a few miles northwest of the present downtown. By 1680, the settlement had grown and moved to its present peninsular location.

Around 1690, the English colonists erected a fortification wall around the small settlement to aid in its defense. The wall sheltered the area, in the present French Quarter, from Cumberland St. south to Water St., from Meeting St. east to East Bay St. The wall was destroyed around 1720. Cobblestone lanes and one building remain from this colonial English Walled Town: the Powder Magazine, where the town's supply of gunpowder was stored. Remnants of the colonial wall were found beneath the Old Exchange Building.

Luckily, Charleston was re-captured in the Civil War without much property damaged, and it was the first city in the U.S. to pass a historical preservation

Climate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Daily highs (°F)	59	62	68	76	83	88	90	89	85	77	69	61
Nightly lows (°F)	38	40	46	53	62	69	72	72	67	56	46	39
Precipitation (in)	3.5	3.1	4.4	2.8	4.1	6	7.2	6.9	5.6	3.1	2.5	3.1
Check Charleston's 7 day forecast at NOAA .												

ordinance. Thus, much of the beautiful architecture, from early Colonial, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate to Victorian, remains for future generations to see and enjoy.

Charleston is also known as The Holy City due to the numerous church steeples, which dot the city's low-rise skyline, and the fact that it was one of the few places in the original thirteen colonies to provide religious tolerance to the French Huguenots as well as to Jews.

Charleston is in general a laid-back, but sophisticated, city and has an old-South feel, just like its neighbor, Savannah. Most people in Charleston are helpful when approached in a polite manner. If a traveler speaks little English, Charlestonians are still generally willing to help as best they can. It is advisable,

however, to at least learn a few key English phrases, and perhaps carry a traveler's phrasebook.

TALK

The dialect here varies from standard American English, having a "Southern Coastal Accent" that contains British influences. For those who learned Standard English, some speech may be difficult to comprehend here. Generally speaking, one can easily get by with Standard American or British English, though. The inhabitants of Charleston are, to a large degree, transient (due to several military installations, port labor, rail labor, and other factors), and therefore many other languages are inherent in a minority role.

A minority dialect spoken here is Gullah, a dialect of English almost incomprehensible to most English

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Speakers. If you are familiar with “Porgy and Bess”, you are familiar with Gullah. Gullah has West-African influences mixed with pidjin French and English. The dialect originated around John’s Island. If you travel south of the city (to the islands, or towards Ravenel), the dialect becomes somewhat more prevalent (although still in a minority context).

Alternate languages include Spanish and Portuguese, brought to the city and its outskirts by its large Latin American population. One may encounter “Spanglish” here, which is an odd combination of Spanish and English.

Place names in and around Charleston are often very Americanized versions of French (Legare Street, for example, is pronounced luh-GREE) or other languages.

GET IN

By plane

Charleston is served by Charleston International Airport (IATA: CHS), which is located about 12 miles northwest of historic downtown, and has a terminal with 2 concourses.. Taxis to downtown cost about \$25; shuttles arranged by Airport Ground Transportation cost about \$14/person to downtown. CARTA operates an express bus route 4 every

hour nonstop from the airport to the downtown Visitors Center seven days a week, with a fare of \$3. In addition, CARTA also operates local bus 11 to downtown hourly on weekdays. Rental cars are available at the airport terminal; Interstate 526 connects the airport with Interstate 26, which in turn terminates just north of historic downtown at U.S. 17.

By car

Charleston is located nearly at the midpoint of South Carolina’s Atlantic coastline. It can be easily reached by car, from the north or south, via U.S. Highway 17, which cuts across the Charleston peninsula, or from the west, via Interstate 26, which terminates just northwest of the historic downtown at U.S. 17. The outer beltway Interstate 526 forms a loop from U.S. 17 to the Charleston International Airport.

By train

Amtrak has a station located 10 miles north of downtown.

By bus

The Greyhound station is in North Charleston. To get to Charleston/ Downtown, cross the street from the

Greyhound station and take the #11 Airport Bus (away from the airport). The last stop for this bus is one of Charleston’s four visitor’s centers, this one located downtown.

The ACE Basin Express provides non-stop service between downtown Charleston and downtown Savannah, with departures on most days from the Charleston Visitor Center bus shed on Meeting Street. It also offers optional pick-ups and drop-offs at area hotels.

GET AROUND

Charleston is a city that is best explored by car or on foot. Several rental car services are available at the Charleston International Airport. Some area hotels also provide transportation to and from the airport.



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By public transportation

The public transportation system in Charleston consists primarily of a fleet of buses run by the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) and privately run taxi services. The bus system is not widely used by the vast majority of city residents, and the system would be rated only as fair by the standards of similar size or larger American cities. Express Bus Route 4 runs from the airport to the downtown Visitors Center every hour, with a fare of \$3. CARTA also operates three Downtown Area Shuttles (DASH 210, 211, and 213), which are useful for the visitor who does not wish to walk the historic downtown. Regular fares are \$1.75, but downtown DASH services are free of charge.

Taxis are generally safe and inexpensive

in Charleston but are sometimes difficult to find unless they are prearranged by calling one of the taxi services in advance or you are in the downtown area, where it is easy to flag one down. If your stay in Charleston does not regulate you to one given area, then renting a car will be the best option.

By tour bus or carriage

Historic Charleston City Tours is the newest addition to the tour bus choices. Using 2015 Sprinter Style vehicles allows for a personal approach to the Holy City. This is the ONLY ON/OFF tour. 5 small guided walking tours are included during the fully narrated city tour. Sprinter vans are available for private tours and occasions. Booking available on website-historiccharlestoncitytours.com or by phone (843) 732-4577

Charleston), although one might prepare oneself for some derisive comment and exasperation from locals inconvenienced by such quaint methods of transit.

By foot

Luckily for visitors to Charleston's peninsula, the historic district is accessible on foot. If staying in one of the many hotels on the peninsula of Charleston, a visitor could easily explore most of the city's major historical sites without benefit of a car, either by foot or also with the help of the three DASH trolley lines. Unfortunately, the plantations--a significant part of Charleston's history--are not located within walking distance of the peninsula. If you are driving into the historic downtown, the first thing to do is to find someplace to park. Garage parking is available at the Visitor Center for \$1/hr.



Gray Line of Charleston offers a choice of guided mini-bus tours of the historic, charming city of Charleston, designed to give you a fun and informative look into the city's well-preserved past.

The best way to tour the city is by carriage drawn by horses or mules (many vendors available at the Market in downtown

The streets in the historic downtown in peninsular Charleston are more or less parallel and perpendicular to the Cooper River waterfront, forming a warp grid pattern, with a major shift in the angle of the grid at the east-west "fault line" of Beaufain/Hasell Street, just north of the old Market Area near the waterfront. The major east-west street, Calhoun Street, was once known as the Boundary Street, separating the then-suburbs north of it from the urban

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area south of it. The major north-south street, King Street, is the main shopping street in downtown, from the Upper King area north of Calhoun around the Visitor Center south to the upscale anchor, Charleston Place, at Beaufain/Hasell.

Several blocks south is a major east-west street, Broad Street, which divides two areas in historic downtown, aptly named North of Broad and South of Broad. Those South of Broad were nicknamed SOBs, and those Slightly North of Broad were SNOBs. The French Quarter, founded by the French Huguenots, is just south of the Market Area along the waterfront. The area near the southern tip of the peninsula, where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers meet, is known as The Battery. Take a French Quarter walk with a 12th generation Charlestonian of Huguenot descent (843-609-4479).

There are many walking tours, which give you the opportunity to see more than just driving past in a bus or carriage. There is a walking tour for virtually every interest. You will find Pub Tours, Civil War tours, culinary tours, ghost tours, Gulla tours, architecture tours, art tour, and even pirate tours. Some of the walking tour companies offer tours with guides in period costume. Charleston Pirate Tours even has a costumed guide whose parrot,

a blue and gold macaw, accompanies the tour.

SEE

A good place to start a tour of Charleston is the Visitor Reception and Transportation Center (tel: 1-800-774-0006), located at 375 Meeting St. (and Ann St.), not far from the terminus of I-26 northwest of downtown. At the Visitor Center, a traveler can find maps and guides, tour a small museum dedicated to the history of Charleston, book sightseeing tours, and view an introductory film to Charleston (\$2).

- **Charleston History Tours,** Washington Park (96 Meeting St.), 843.901.9283. All Year. Experience Charleston's incomparable beauty, unique history and flourishing preservation with your guide whose knowledge of Charleston heritage, culture, and architecture is unmatched. Your 2 hour walking tour can be customized to what interests you most, which may include magnificent mansions, mysterious graveyards, graceful



gardens, Revolutionary and Civil War sites, secret passageways, cobblestone streets, slave history, various locations to capture unique photographs, and photographic tips on how to compose the perfect shot. \$23.50.

Historic Attractions

Charleston's primary attraction to visitors is its historical setting and landmarks. A list of some sites to visit includes:

- **The Battery and White Point Gardens.** A park located at the southern tip of the Charleston peninsula with beautiful views, especially along the Battery Promenade by the Cooper River. Don't miss the elegant historic mansions along the Promenade, some of which have sold for nearly \$20M.

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- **Charleston Museum**, 360 Meeting Street, across the street from the Visitor Center. Start with this museum to learn of Charleston's history. Open daily. Adults \$10.
- **Fort Sumter**, the island site of the start of the Civil War, is a National Monument. One must board a ferry for an additional fee at either Liberty Square in downtown or Patriot's Point in Mt. Pleasant. The ferry ride is about 30 minutes. Fort Sumter is in ruins, but there are markers telling you where things used to be, as well as a museum.
- **French Quarter** between S. Market and Tradd, Meeting and the waterfront, where the English colonial Walled Town once stood. Known for its art galleries, St. Philips Church, French Huguenot Church, and historic architecture.
- **The Market**. An old shopping district at the foot of Market Street where vendors still sell wares. Contrary to popular legend, the Market was never a slave exchange. However, the remnants of an old slave market are located a few blocks away.
- **Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum**. Located right off the Ravenel bridge in Mt. Pleasant, this side of Charleston houses an

impressive display of warfare including the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, the submarine USS Clagamore, the destroyer USS Laffey and the Coast Guard cutter USCG Ingham. There are also an aircraft and a reconstructed Vietnam era camp.

- **Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site**. Off US 171 on the west bank of the Ashley River, about 3 miles northwest of downtown.
- **The Citadel**. Historic military college founded in 1842. Full dress parades generally occur every Friday afternoon while school is in session and are free to the public. The campus is typically open to visitors and tours can be arranged by calling the school or stopping

by the Admissions Office located in Bond Hall.

- **The College of Charleston**. Founded in 1770, the College of Charleston is the oldest institution of higher education in the state of South Carolina and the thirteenth oldest in the United States.
- **Randolph Hall**, at the College of Charleston. Built in 1828. Popular civil war movie-making site.
- **Longitude Lane** (Longitude Lane), off E Bay St. Colonial cobblestone lane built on a longitude line.
- **Fort Moultrie**, Revolutionary and Civil War fort on nearby Sullivan's Island.
- **Gibbes Museum of Art**, Since 1905, this striking Beaux Arts building has housed a premier collection of over 10,000 works of fine art, principally American works with a Charleston or Southern connection.

Historic Places of Worship

Charleston is known as the Holy City because it provided religious tolerance to many who fled persecution, including the French Huguenots, Church of England dissenters, and others. The first places of worship organized in the late 17th and early 18th century were located around the old walled town, the present French Quarter .



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As the town grew outward, later places of worship were mainly located towards the upper wards north of Boundary Street, the present Calhoun St. Colonial Charleston was the wealthiest English town in America, which is reflected in the sophisticated religious architecture dotting the historic peninsula.

- **Circular Congregational Church**, 150 Meeting St. Congregationalists, Scotch and Irish Presbyterians, and French Huguenots of the original settlement of Charles Town founded this dissenting congregation, known as the Independent Church, around 1681. They met at the White Meeting House, for which Meeting Street is named.
- **French Huguenot Church**, 44 Queen St. (at Church St.) Organized around 1681 by Huguenot refugees from the Protestant persecutions in France; first church at present site built in 1687.
- **St. Philip's Episcopal Church**, 146 Church St. Organized around 1681 at site now occupied by St. Michael's.
- **First Baptist Church**, 61 Church St. Organized around 1683; present site donated in 1699. Oldest Baptist church in the South, and often referred to as the "mother church of Southern Baptists".
- **First (Scots) Presbyterian Church**, 53 Meeting St. Organized in 1731.
- **Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim**, 90 Hasell St. (near the Old Market). Organized in 1749. The oldest surviving Reform synagogue in the world.
- **St. Michael's Episcopal Church**, 71 Broad St. Organized in 1751.
- **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, 89 Hasell St. Organized in 1789. Oldest Catholic church in the Carolinas.
- **Trinity United Methodist Church**, 273 Meeting St. Organized in 1791.
- **Second Presbyterian Church**, 342 Meeting St. Organized in 1809.
- **Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist**, 120 Broad St. Organized in 1821.
- **St. Matthews Lutheran Church**, 405 King St. Organized in 1840.
- **Citadel Square Baptist Church**, 328 Meeting St. (at Calhoun St.) Organized in 1854.
- **St. John's Lutheran Church**, 5 Clifford St. Organized 1742.

Other Attractions

- **Arthur Ravenel Bridge**. The longest cable-stay bridge in North America was completed in 2005 over the Cooper River.
- **Liberty Square**, at the east end of Calhoun St. fronting the Cooper River. Has the South Carolina Aquarium and the Fort Sumter National Monument Visitor Center, both offers views of the Ravenel Bridge. This is also where you may take a boat tour to Fort Sumter.
- **Waterfront Park**, from Vendue Range south to Water St. along the Cooper River. The Wharf at Vendue Range offers views of the cruise ship terminal and the Ravenel Bridge.



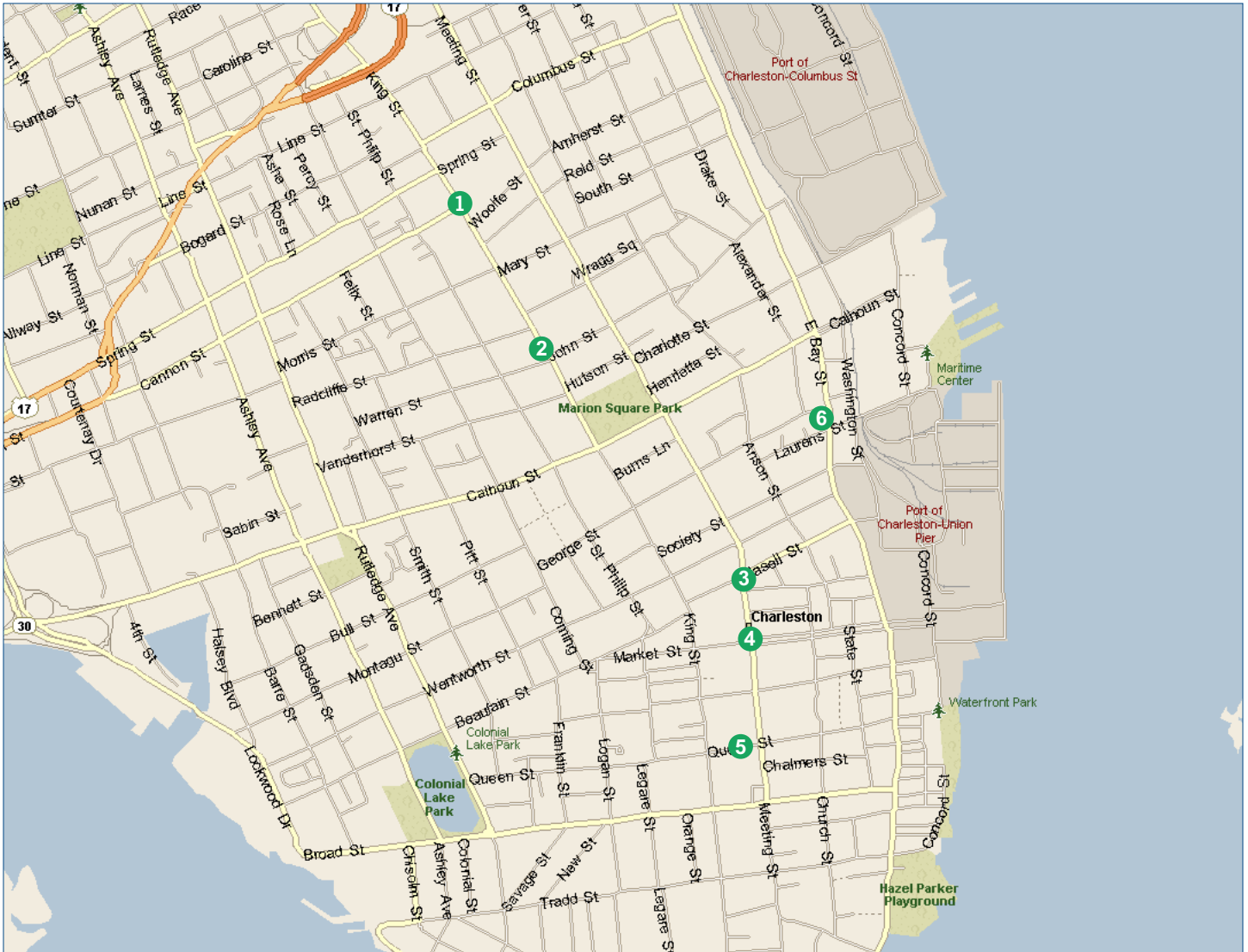
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Hotels / Bed & Breakfasts



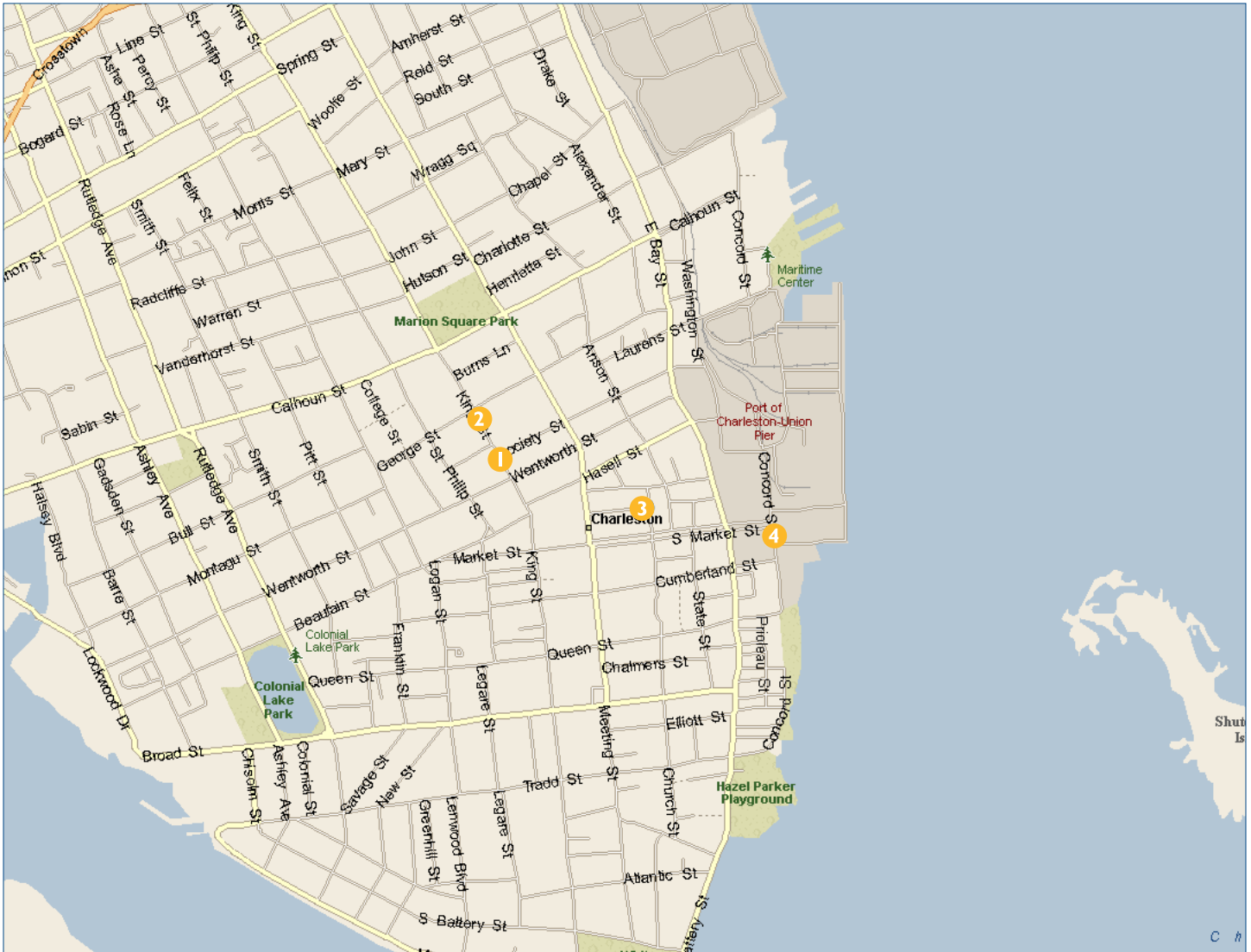
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| 1 Harbourview Inn
2 Vendue Range Street
843.853.8439
www.harbourviewcharleston.com | 7 Planters Inn Charleston
112 N Market Street
843.722.2345
www.plantersinn.com |
| 2 The Restoration on King
75 Wentworth Street
843.518.5100
www.therestorationhotel.com | 8 The Spectator Hotel
67 State Street
843.724.2436
www.thespectatorhotel.com |
| 3 Wentworth Mansion
149 Wentworth Street
888.466.1886
www.wentworthmansion.com | 9 Zero George Inn (B&B)
0 George Street
843.817.7900
www.zero-george.com |
| 4 Andrew Pinckney Inn
40 Pinckney Street
843.937.8800
www.andrewpinckneyinn.com | 10 21 East Battery (B&B)
21 E Battery Street
843.779.9170
www.21eastbattery.com |
| 5 Charleston Place
205 Meeting Street
843.722.4900
www.charlestonplace.com | 11 The Governor's House (B&B)
117 Broad Street
855.249.7422
www.governorshouse.com |
| 6 Renaissance Charleston
68 Wentworth Street
843.534.0300
www.marriott.com | 12 Jasmine House Inn (B&B)
64 Hasell Street
843.751.4231
www.jasminehouseinn.com |

Fine Dining Restaurants



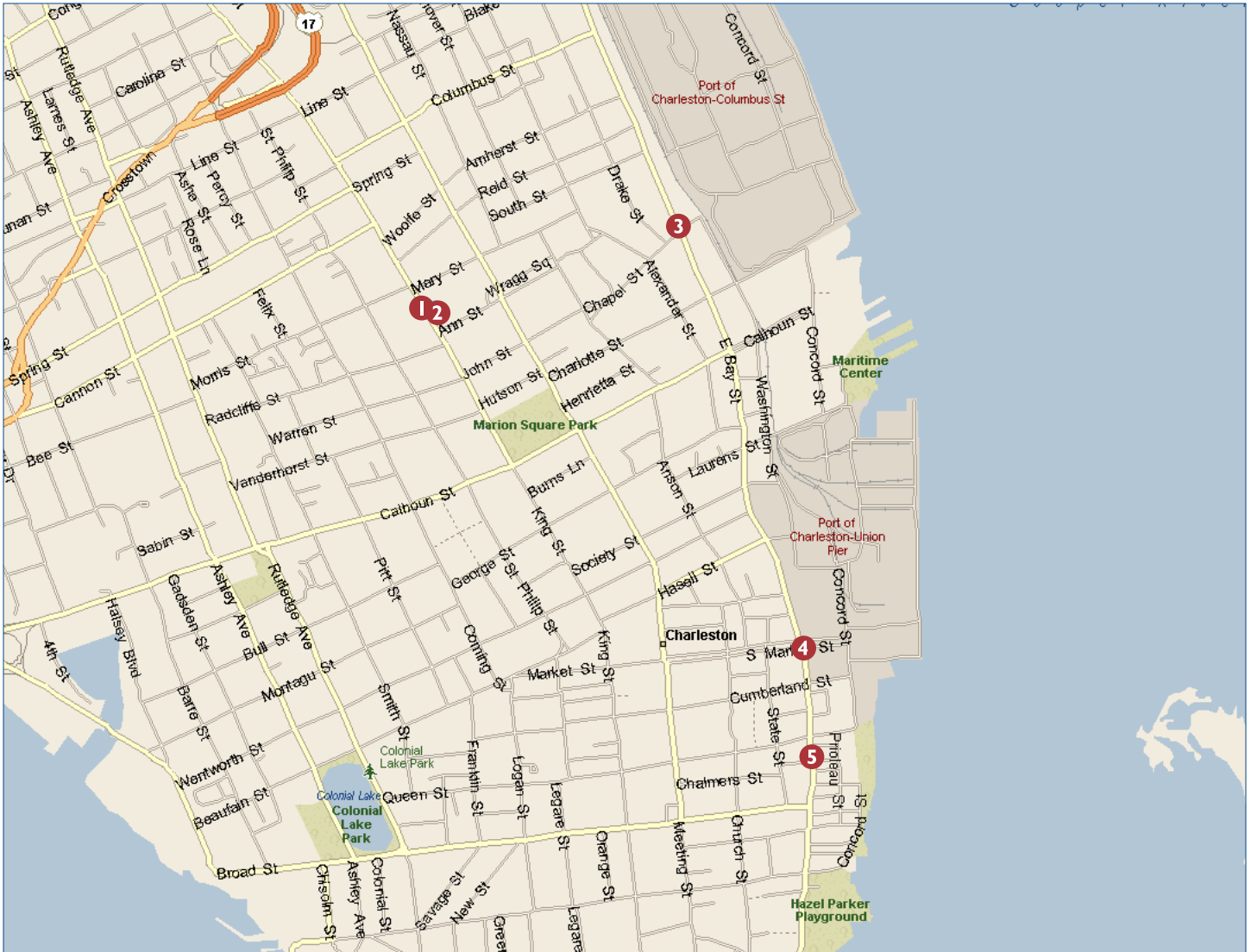
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| 1 | The Ordinary Oyster Hall
544 King Street | 843.414.7060
www.eatheordinary.com |
| 2 | Halls Chophouse
434 King Street | 843.727.0090
www.hallschophouse.com |
| 3 | Fig
232 Meeting Street | 843.805.5900
www.eatatfig.com |
| 4 | Peninsula Grill
112 North Market Street | 843.723.0700
www.peninsulagrill.com |
| 5 | Husk Restaurant
76 Queen Street | 843.577.2500
www.huskrestaurant.com |
| 6 | Zero George
0 George Street | 843.817.7900
www.zerojorge.com |

Family Dining Restaurants



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| 1 | Jim N' Nicks BBQ
288 King St | 843.577.0406
www.jimnnicks.com |
| 2 | Mellow Mushroom Pizza
309 King Street | 843.723.7374
www.mellowmushroom.com |
| 3 | Hank's Seafood
10 Hayne Street | 843.723.3474
www.hanksseafoodrestaurant.com |
| 4 | Fleet Landing
186 Concord Street | 843.722.8100
www.fleetlanding.net |

Bars / Nightlife



- | | | |
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| 1 | Stars Rooftop
495 King Street | 843.577.0100
www.starsrestaurant.com |
| 2 | The Cocktail Club
495 King Street, #200 | 843.724.9411
www.thecocktailclubcharleston.com |
| 3 | East Bay Biergarten
549 East Bay Street | 843.266.2437
www.baystreetbiergarten.com |
| 4 | Market Pavilion
225 East Bay Street | 843.723.0500
www.marketpavilion.com |
| 5 | Pearlz Oyster Bar
153 East Bay Street | 843.577.5755
www.pearlzoysterbar.com |