



Charleston, SC



Charleston, South Carolina, was founded and settled by English colonists, indentured servants, and slaves in 1670. The colonists named their settlement Charles Town in honor of King Charles II. After the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, Charles Town was renamed Charleston. In April 1861, the Civil War began when Confederate soldiers fired on Union-occupied Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

Fort Sumter National Monument incorporates several sites around Charleston Harbor. The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square explains the events leading up to the first shots at Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter is only accessible by a concession-operated ferry or by private boat. The Fort Sumter Museum conveys the story of its construction, the events leading to the April 1861 battle, and its subsequent bombardment.

Charleston's Museum Mile features museums, nationally important historic houses, scenic parks, historic houses of worship, and public buildings, including the Market and City Hall. The Charleston Museum tells the story of Charleston and the Lowcountry through exhibits on early southern culture, decorative arts, military, and natural history. Historic military collections of uniforms, weapons, flags, and accouterments from the Civil War to present day are exhibited at the Washington Light Infantry. The Confederate Museum's collection contains flags, uniforms, swords, and other Confederate memorabilia. The Gibbes Museum of Art, which is closed for renovations until spring 2016, maintains collections of Colonial, Charleston Renaissance, and Contemporary art. The Old Slave Mart Museum focuses on the domestic slave trade from the perspectives of historically documented buyers, traders, and enslaved African Americans. Other museums in this area include the South Carolina Historical Society, the Postal Museum, Children's Museum of the Lowcountry, and the Powder Magazine Museum.

The Aiken-Rhett House Museum, Joseph Manigault House, Heyward-Washington House, Nathaniel Russell House Museum, and Edmondston-Alston House are located in the Charleston Museum Mile.

Charleston's other museums include the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, which contains archival collections and museum exhibitions that reflect these diverse populations. The Citadel Museum portrays the history of The Military College of South Carolina & Corps of Cadets. The Karpeles Library displays important original manuscripts and documents. Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum is home to a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, the Medal of Honor Museum, 28 historic aircraft, and the 3-acre Vietnam Experience. Middleton Place, Drayton Hall, and Calhoun Mansion are additional historic home museums in Charleston.

Charleston offers many opportunities for performing arts. Theatrical performances are available at 34 West Theater Company, the Historic Dock Street Theatre, Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre and Shoppe, The Have Nots! Comedy Improv Company, Actors' Theatre of South Carolina, and the Crabpot Players Theatre.

Musical performance groups and venues include the Sound of Charleston at the Circular Congregational Church; Charleston Concert Association, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus at the Charleston Gaillard Center; Brad and Jennifer Moranz at Charleston Music Hall; and the Charleston Performing Arts Center.

The 17-day Piccolo Spoleto Festival held in May and June focuses primarily on artists of the Southeast region and offers visual arts exhibits, classical music, jazz, dance, theatre, choral music, poetry readings, children's activities, ethnic cultural presentations, crafts, and film.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Charleston consists of six distinct areas: the Peninsula/Downtown, West Ashley, Johns Island, James Island, Daniel Island, and the Cainhoy Peninsula.

Downtown Charleston contains many residential neighborhoods. Most of Ansonborough, Charleston's first neighborhood, was destroyed in an 1838 fire; houses were subsequently rebuilt in the Greek Revival style. Housing options in South of Broad include antebellum mansions, carriage houses, and high-end condominiums. Condominiums dominate the French Quarter, which features property dating from the 1704 walled city. Radcliffeborough offers condominiums, historic properties, and a few newer construction pocket neighborhoods. Cannonborough and Elliottborough provide housing options that include historic Charleston properties, modern condominiums, and townhouses. Most of the homes in the North Central neighborhood were built in the 1930s through the 1950s, primarily in the bungalow style.

In West Ashley, the Byrnes Downs neighborhood features modestly-sized brick cottages from the 1940s situated on tree-canopied streets. Established in the 1920s, the Crescent neighborhood with its lakes and green spaces offers traditional home styles on quiet streets. The majority of homes in Windermere are 1950s ranch-style homes. Single- and two-story homes built in the 1930s and 1980s sit on large

estate-sized lots in Wappoo Heights. The 340 homes that constitute the Avondale neighborhood were built between the 1940s and 1950s, mostly in brick ranch style or masonry construction, and are situated on lots with mature oak trees.

Daniel Island is a planned island community with housing options that include apartments, condominiums, townhouses, waterfront mansions, and starter homes.

On Johns Island, the Villages in St. Johns Woods feature designs that include bungalow, Craftsman homes, and classic Charleston shotgun style were built between 2003 and 2008. The large Lowcountry-style homes in the gated community of Grimball Gates were built between 2002 and 2011. Whitney Lake consists of newer single-family homes and town houses.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Charleston has 89 parks including 7 recreation centers. The Bees Landing Recreation Center offers extensive amenities including athletic, baseball, and football fields; basketball and tennis courts; a playground; and a dog park. Hazel Parker Playground has athletic field; basketball and tennis courts; a playground; and a dog park. James Island Recreation Complex has a baseball field, basketball court, a playground, and a pool.

Museum exhibits at the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center trace the story of American seacoast defenses from 1776 to 1947.

EDUCATION

The Charleston County School District serves more than 49,000 students in 47 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 13 high schools. The district offers choices including Montessori, International Baccalaureate, single gender, military-infused, math and science, arts, and global studies programs.

Higher education is available at The College of Charleston, which is a public liberal arts and sciences university with undergraduate and master's degree programs. The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, is a state-supported, comprehensive college with an undergraduate student body that constitutes the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. The Citadel Graduate College is a civilian evening program that offers graduate and professional degrees as well as undergraduate programs.

The Medical University of South Carolina is a state university with a medical center and Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Graduate Studies, Dental Medicine, and Health Professions.

Trident Technical College's Palmer Campus showcases the award-winning 181 Palmer Restaurant and Spa 66 and programs that include culinary, massage therapy, nail technology, and esthetics.

The Art Institute of Charleston offers degrees in design, media arts, fashion, and culinary. The Charleston School of Law is a private law school located in Charleston.

HEALTH CARE

Charleston is served by the following hospitals:
The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Medical Center, including Charleston Memorial Hospital facility: 709 licensed beds (604 general, 82 psychiatric, 23 substance abuse)

Roper Hospital-368 licensed beds (316 general, 52 rehabilitation)
Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: 204 licensed beds (204 general)
Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center: 149 authorized beds with 20 nursing home care beds

Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital: 49 licensed rehabilitation beds
Trident Medical Center, East Cooper Medical Center, Mount Pleasant Hospital, Palmetto Lowcountry Behavioral Health, and Vibra Hospital of Charleston are located in neighboring communities.

CITY STATS

2014

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| City Population | 130,113 |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population | 727,689 |
| Per capita personal income, Charleston-North Charleston, SC, MSA: | \$41,305 |