

# the insider's guide

2021 EDITION

RESTAURANTS

CURATED LISTS FOR  
EVERY TRAVELLER

ATTRACTIONS

PICKS FROM  
US, CATERED  
TO YOU!

ISLAND REALTY'S INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE LOWCOUNTRY





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# Is

- **WHAT IS CONSIDERED “THE LOWCOUNTRY?”**

The Lowcountry is essentially the surrounding Charleston area, as well as areas such as Beaufort and Jasper. In this guide, we’ll show you around Downtown Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms, and Sullivan’s Island.

- **WHAT IS THIS AREA KNOWN FOR?**

The Charleston area has a rich history rooted in the people, beaches, and food here. Southern hospitality and charm are a staple, and can be seen no matter where you go! Keep an eye out for some of Charleston’s iconic characteristics—the Single-House style homes, sweetgrass baskets, and shrimp and grits of course!

- **WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT?**

Charleston is beautiful all year round! Like any coastal region, Spring and Summer are the most common seasons to vacation. However, there are events, restaurants, and local attractions to enjoy every month of the year, which means there is always a reason to come to the Holy City!

- **WHAT CAN I DO BESIDES GOING TO THE BEACH?**

While spending the day on the barrier islands’ beaches are a personal favorite of ours, of course there is plenty of other things to do here if you’re looking for a break from the sun

and sand! Mount Pleasant and Downtown Charleston have plenty of shopping options, and there are a lot of different attractions for learning the history of the city as well! Visit our curated guides starting on page [30](#) to get the ideas flowing!

- **WHAT ARE THE GOOD RESTAURANTS HERE?**

The amount of restaurants in the Charleston area can be overwhelming—that’s what we’re here for! Check out pages 6-27 for our area-specific recommendations, and the best restaurants for you on our Charleston Bucket List pages!

- **WHAT’S THE BEST WAY TO GET AROUND?**

If you’re flying in, Uber and Lyft are going to be your best friends—both services are prevalent here! If you’re not as tech savvy, Charleston Green Taxi and Charleston Cab Company are some more traditional cab options. Depending on what property you’re staying in, you might also want to consider renting a golf cart or bikes to get around the islands!

- **WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?**

Feel free to check the [faq’s section on our website](#) for vacation-specific questions, or call our guest services team at (855) 244-3339 (<http://bit.ly/IslandFAQs>)

Is this your first time exploring the Lowcountry? Take a look at these popular questions first before you get started!







# The Inside Scoop on Isle of Palms

**T**he Isle of Palms (IOP) is an island off the coast of Mount Pleasant, and is roughly six miles long. While the vacation rentals are certainly abundant, there are many residents that live here all year, and call IOP their home. This area is perfect for families and groups that are looking for a beautiful beach community, that's a break from the hustle and bustle of other beach towns. You aren't going to find carnival games and a ferris wheel on the pier, but there's still plenty of fun to be had on this beautiful island!



## The Marina

Located on the northern end of the Island, near Wild Dunes, the IOP Marina is a must-see! Here you'll find boat rentals, dockage, as well as fishing charters and other water activities. Dockside Deli is a great spot to grab lunch or local souvenirs to take back home, as well as necessities (so you won't have to go back over the IOP Connector!)

*Don't miss: Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions, Saltworks Dockside Deli*





The Front Beach district has several condo complexes (the only condos on IOP outside of Wild Dunes,) a variety of delicious local restaurants, and fun shops to get any souvenirs, or beach gear that you might have forgotten at home!

a)



b)



c)



d)



a) [Sea Cabins](#): 1-bed, 1-bath cozy oceanfront condos! Guests have access to a private pier and beach access, and a community pool!

b) [Oceanside Villas](#): 2-bed, 2-bath condos across the street from the beach! Guests have access to private pier and a community pool!

c) [1140 Ocean Blvd.](#): 3-4 bedroom oceanfront condos! Guests have private beach access, community pool, and W/D in every unit!

d) [Dunescape](#): 3-bed, 3-bath ocean-front condos! Guests have private beach access, community pool, and W/D in every unit!





# Dining



**Acme Lowcountry Kitchen**  
31 J C Long Blvd.  
Southern Favorites



**Sea Biscuit Cafe**  
21 J C Long Blvd.  
Breakfast & Lunch



**The Dinghy**  
8 J C Long Blvd.  
Bar Bites



**Binky's Oyster Bar**  
1130 Ocean Blvd.  
Oyster Bar



**The Windjammer**  
1008 Ocean Blvd.  
Oceanfront Bar & Live Music Venue



**The Refuge**  
1517 Palm Blvd.  
Modern American & Coffee Shop



**Saltworks Deli**  
50 41st Ave.  
Oceanfront Deli



**Coda del Pesce**  
1130 Ocean Blvd.  
Authentic Italian



**Luke n' Ollies Pizzeria**  
1101 Ocean Blvd.  
Casual Pizza Eatery



**Papi's Taqueria**  
1012 Ocean Blvd.  
Laid-back Taco Spot



**Long Island Cafe/IOP Raw**  
1515 Palm Blvd.  
Quaint bistro & raw bar



**Cafe Paname**  
1202 Palm Blvd.  
Coffee Shop



**The Boathouse**  
101 Palm Blvd.  
Waterfront Seafood



**The Co-Op on Palm**  
1515 Palm Blvd.  
Deli

*Fan Favorite:* 

*Staff Favorite:* 

# Attractions



**Barrier Island Eco Tours**  
50 41st Ave.  
Sightseeing, Boat Tours



**Isle of Palms County Park**  
1 14th Ave.  
Beachfront Park



**Coastal Expeditions**  
50 41st Ave.  
Kayak & Paddleboard Tours



**Port City Moped**  
1202 Palm Blvd.  
Scooter Rentals



**IOP Beach Chair Co.**  
1202 Palm Blvd.  
Beach Chair & Gear Rentals



**Cabana Boy IOP**  
Beach Tent Rentals



**IOP Rec Center**  
24 28th Ave.  
Public Park & Fitness Facilities





# The Inside Scoop on Wild Dunes

**W**ild Dunes is a gated resort community at the Northern end of the island. The resort is quiet, peaceful, and a favorite for families with young children, or those just looking to have a more private vacation experience. Wild Dunes also has two golf courses open to the public, tennis courts and fitness center availability to select properties, and several restaurants!



## Tee time!

Wild Dunes is known most for its serene golf courses. Both the Links and the Harbor Course were designed by Tom Fazio, and are unique in their own ways. The Links Course is lined by palm trees, and the finishing hole overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. The Harbor Course is known for being more challenging, and equally as beautiful. On this course you'll enjoy views of marshes and the Intracoastal Waterway as you play your way through.



# Resort Condos & Villas

# Rest, Relaxation, and Restaurants

1  
bedroom



Mariners Walk



Port O' Call



Coastal Provisions  
200 Grand Pavilion Rd.  
Upscale Seafood &  
Chophouse



Woody's Eatery  
5891 Palmetto Dr.  
Grab & Go



Huey's Southern Eats  
1001 Back Bay Dr.  
Southern Fare



Dinner Delivered  
Family-Style Meals  
843-886-2218

## Resort Resources

**Golf Pro Shop | 855-923-7444**

**Just for Kids Programs | 877-250-9224**

**Resort Activities & Workshops | 977-250-9224**

**Sand & Sea Spa | 1 Sundial Circle** (Pick up your Sports Card here!)

**Tennis Center | 888-778-1876**

*Wait- what's a Sports Card?*

A Wild Dunes Sports Card is something that is available for rental property owners to purchase at the beginning of each season. Properties that have a Sports Card allow the guests that stay there to have access to the fitness center (for a fee,) as well as the tennis courts and additional pools in the resort!



Beach Club Villas



Fairway Dunes Villas



Linkside Villas



Mariners Walk



Ocean Club Villas



Racquet Club Villas



Seagrove



Seascape



Shipwatch



Summer House



Tidewater

*so many to choose from!*

2-3 bedrooms





# The Inside Scoop on Sullivan's Island

(SI) is the smaller next door neighbor to the Isle of Palms. This quaint island town, which is just slightly over 3 miles long, is a serene community full of charm that visitors are sure to swoon over. From the forests and historic atmosphere, to the pride in local businesses and tight-knit community, being on Sullivan's Island is like stepping into a Nicholas Sparks-inspired movie—speaking of, did you know that *Dear John* was filmed right here on these beaches?? SI is the perfect destination for families and friends that are looking for a more relaxed beach experience, less crowds, and great food!



## Fun facts about SI:

- Sullivan's Island uses "stations" to mark the East-to-West directional streets. This dates back to when transportation to the island relied on ferries and trolleys!
- Poe's Tavern, the popular burger spot on Middle St., is named after Edgar Allen Poe. Poe was stationed here on SI in 1828!
- This was the first municipality in the state to ban smoking in all public areas in 2006!
- The town celebrates Carolina Day on June 28th every year, to commemorate the Battle of Sullivan's Island that took place on that day in 1776.





# Sullivan's Island Dining & Attractions

**Dining**

**Cafe Roux**  
2213 Middle St. Ste 2  
Cajun

**The Co-Op**  
2019 Middle St.  
Deli

**Dunleavy's Pub**  
2213 Middle St. #B  
Irish Pub

**High Thyme**  
2213 Middle St.  
American

**Home Team BBQ**  
2209 Middle St.  
BBQ

**The Longboard**  
2213 Middle St. #B  
Island-inspired

**Mex1**  
2205 Middle St.  
Mexican

**The Obstinate Daughter**  
2063 Middle St.  
Eclectic

**Poe's Tavern**  
2210 Middle St.  
Burgers

*Island Realty favorites*



## Things to do, Places to See



**Sealand Adventure Sports**  
2120 Middle St.  
Water Sports Rentals

**Fort Moultrie**  
1214 Middle St.  
National Park

**Stella Maris Church**  
1204 Middle St.  
Catholic Church

**Thomson Park**  
3217 Middle St.  
Park

**Sullivan's Island Lighthouse**  
1815 Ion Ave.  
Local Landmark



# The Inside Scoop on Mount Pleasant

**M**ount Pleasant lies right over the Isle of Palms Connector, and sits between us and Downtown Charleston. While you may just drive on through on your way to the Islands, there is so much to see and do here that you'll want to give a second look. This city is continuously growing because of its small-town feel, proximity to Downtown and the beach, as well as its strong local businesses. Here, you're also a short drive away from the Air Force and Naval bases, and the Charleston International Airport!

In the town of Mount P., major hobbies of locals and visitors alike include golf (there are 6 golf courses in the area!) and fishing (if you're not up for fishing yourself, you can get fresh catches at Shem Creek!)



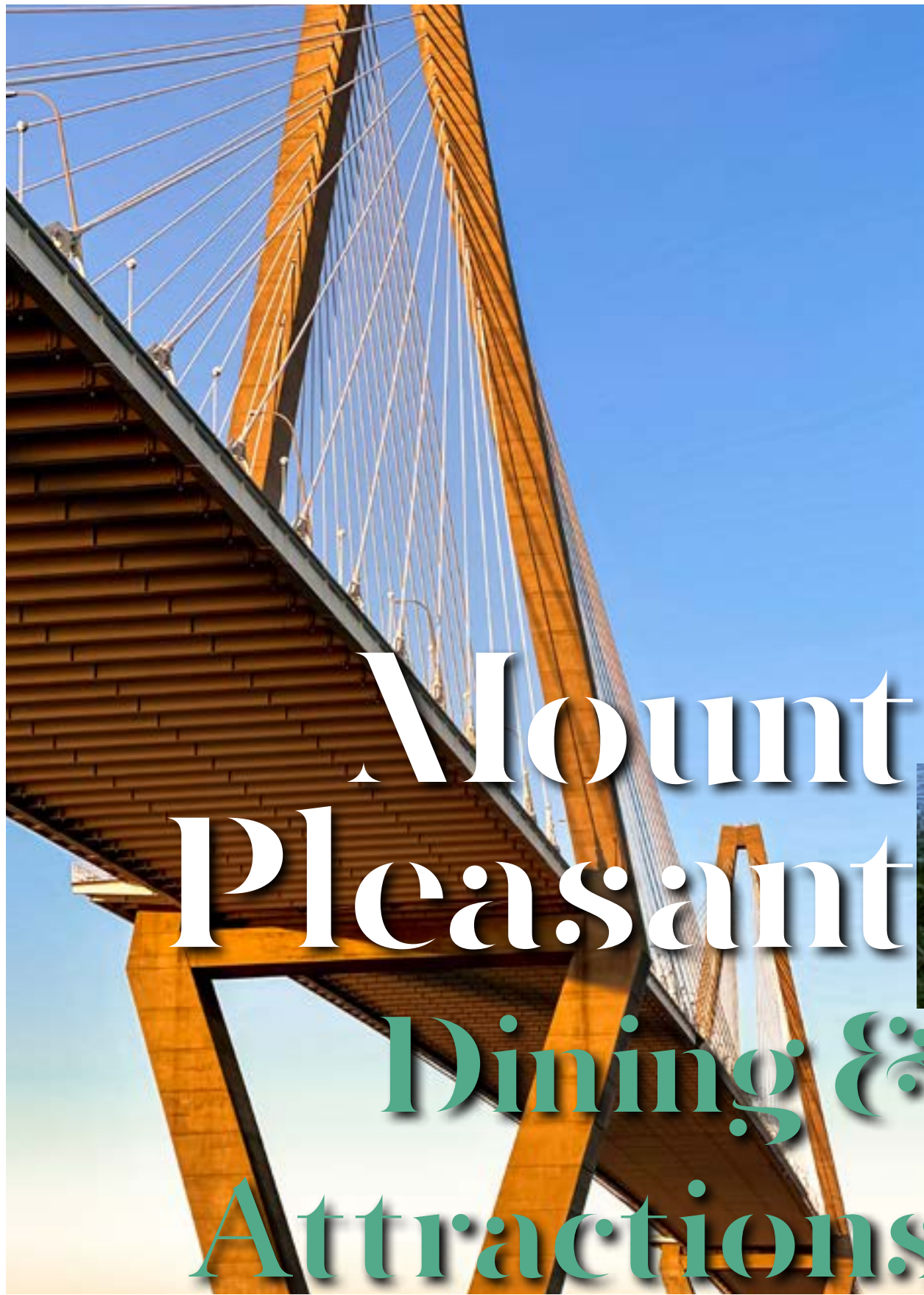
## The Old Village

Mount Pleasant is full of charm, and is best preserved in the Historic District/Old Village. The OV dates back to 1803, and was established as a commercial hub due to its proximity to Shem Creek.

This district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973! Conservation, protection, and enhancing the neighborhood are priorities here.

Today, you can see the beauty of the Old Village captured in your favorite movies and TV shows. If you've seen the hit Netflix series *Outer Banks*, scenes around Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island will look very familiar!





# Mount Pleasant Dining & Attractions



Coastal Crust  
219 Simmons St.  
Pizza



Come Back Shack  
1132 Bowman Road, Ste G  
Burgers & Fries



First Watch  
1236 Belk Dr.  
Breakfast



Kudzu Bakery  
1100 Bowman Rd.  
Bakery & Cafe

LITTLE MISS HÀ

Little Miss Ha  
915 Houston Northcutt Blvd.  
Vietnamese



Melvin's BBQ  
925 Houston Northcutt Blvd.  
BBQ



Mozzo Deli  
730 Coleman Blvd.  
Deli



Page's Okra Grill  
302 Coleman Blvd.  
Southern



Red's Ice House  
98 Church St.  
Seafood



**Boone Hall Plantation**  
1235 Long Point Rd.  
Historic Landmark

**Farmers Market**  
645 Coleman Blvd.  
Tuesdays, April-Sept.

**Shem Creek**  
Shrimp Boat Lane  
Park, Dining, Watersports

**Waterfront Park**  
99 Harry M. Hallman Jr Blvd.  
Park

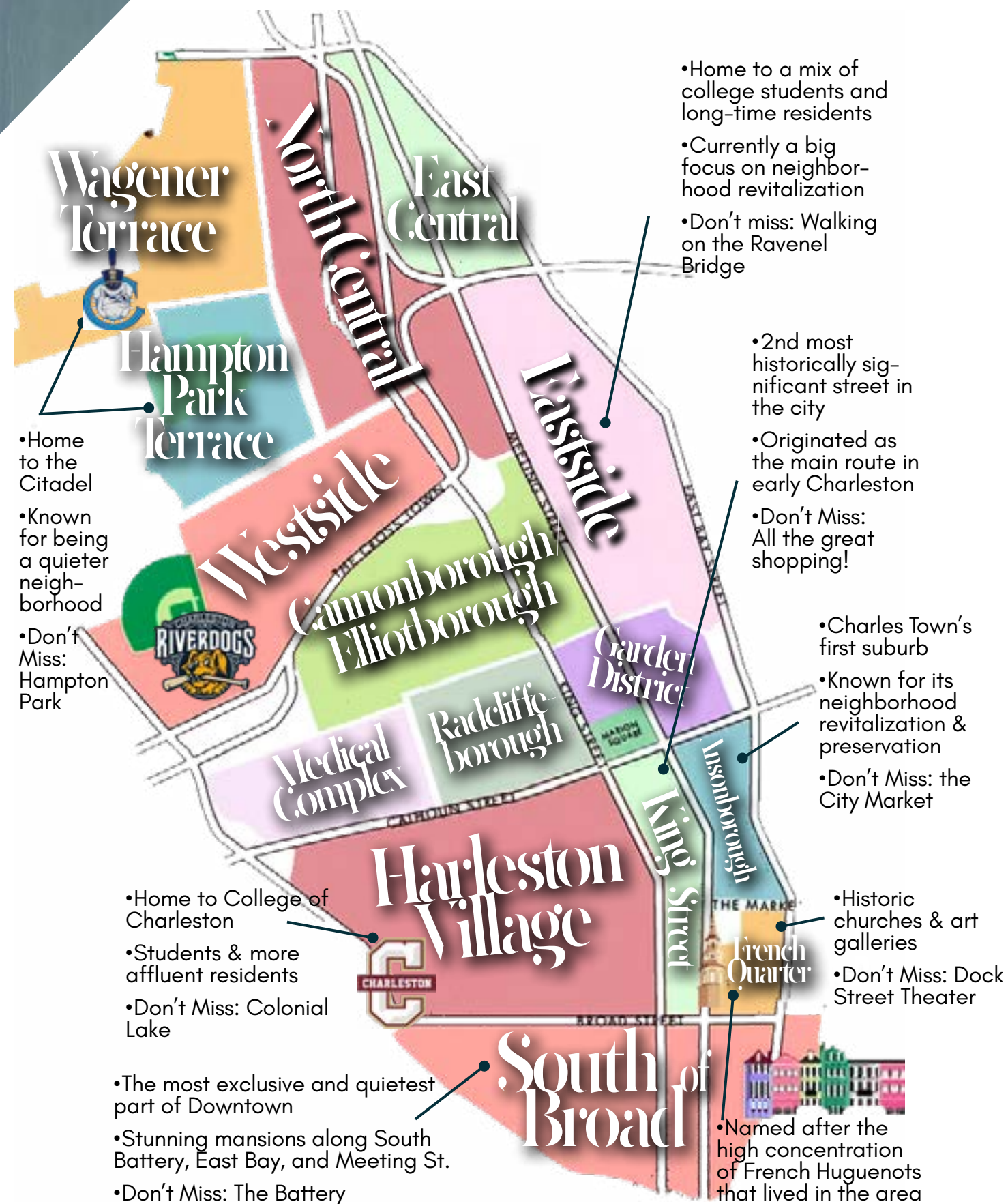
**Pitt St. Bridge**  
Pitt Street  
Park

**Towne Centre**  
1218 Belk Dr.  
Outdoor Mall



# The Inside Scoop On Downtown Charleston

Did you know that Charleston was one of the first commercial hubs in the colonial United States? Charleston's proximity to the water meant that they could thrive in the world of trade and selling goods. Charleston is also home to the United States' first public college, College of Charleston. This school is centered in the Downtown area, and repeatedly receives accolades for being one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, so definitely be sure to pay it a visit while you're here! Charleston is also the location where the first shots were fired during the Civil War, and where the largest earthquake in the Southeast occurred in 1886! Charleston is filled to the brim with history and fun facts, so there is always something new to learn.





## Attractions



**Charleston Riverdogs**

the Gibbes museum of art



**Gibbes Museum of Art**



**SC Aquarium**

The Charleston Museum

**The Charleston Museum**

## Shopping



**City Market**

EST | 2017

cannonborough

COLLECTIVE

**Cannonborough Collective**

## Tours



**Bulldog Tours**



**Palmetto Carriage Works**

An Island Realty Favorite!



**SANDLAPPER WATER TOURS**

**Sandlapper Water Tours**



# Island Realty's Top Picks Downtown

Downtown is the hub for all things dining, shopping, and entertainment, so of course we couldn't list them all! Here's some of our staff-and guest favorites!



**Butcher & Bee**  
1085 Morrison Dr.  
Seasonal & Local



**Eli's Table**  
129 Meeting St.  
High-End Southern

**COAST**  
Charleston's freshest seafood



Fan Favorites!



**FLEET LANDING**

**Le Farfalle**  
ITALY

**Le Farfalle**  
15 Beaufain St.  
Italian



**F.I.G.**  
232 Meeting St.  
Fine Dining



**Hanibal's Kitchen**  
16 Blake St.  
Gullah Cuisine

**Harken**

**Harken Cafe**  
62 Queen St.  
Coffee Shop



**Husk**  
76 Queen St.  
Southern



**Leon's**  
698 King St.  
Oyster Bar



**Rodney Scott's**  
1011 King St.  
BBQ







# Charleston

# is

# calling.

CHARLESTON HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN VOTED THE BEST CITY TO VISIT IN THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD, SO IT'S NO SECRET THAT THERE'S A TONS OF STUFF TO DO HERE! IT CAN BE HARD TO DECIDE WHERE TO START AND WHAT ATTRACTIONS YOU WANT TO SEE, AND THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN! WE HAVE CURATED GUIDES FOR JUST ABOUT EVERY KIND OF TRAVELLER, SO YOU CAN PLAN YOUR VACATION EASIER!



# The Charleston Bucket List

## for First Timers

*Elix Table, Acme, & Hall's Chophouse are our favorites!*

*Need some suggestions? Try Boone Hall or Magnolia!*

*Husk, Magnolia's, and Porgy's Porch are classics!*

*Bulldog Tours has several different tours to choose from!*

**Watch the sunrise at Breach Inlet**

**Do as the locals do-go to brunch!**

**Go shopping along King St.**

**Sample pralines along the Market**

**Take a tour at a historical plantation**

**Visit the famous Angel Oak**

**Sightsee the mansions along the Battery**

**Wade in the Pineapple fountain**

**Taste Lowcountry cuisine**

**Spend a day at the beach**

**Go to Happy Hour on a rooftop bar**

**Explore the city on a walking tour**

*Paradise found.*





*The best thing  
about memories  
is making them*

# The Charleston Bucket List *for Families*

*Cafe Paname, The Co-Op, and  
Mozzo Deli are on your way  
into Downtown Charleston!* →

*Barrier Island Eco  
Tours has several  
tours great for the  
whole family!* →

*Acme, Fleet Landing, &  
Poe's Tavern are great for  
ages 2-102!* →

*Ben & Jerry's on IOP, or  
Beardcat's on Sullivan's!  
(pictured left)* →

*Charleston Family  
Portraits is perfect for  
this!* →

**On-the-go local breakfast**

**Learn CHS history @ the Charleston Museum**

**Explore Charles Towne Landing by bike**

**Visit the petting zoo and gardens @  
Magnolia Plantation**

**Adventure to an uninhabited island**

**Collect shells on the beach**

**See wildlife from all over SC @ the aquarium**

**Dinner out at a crowd-pleasing restaurant**

**Go out for ice cream on the islands!**

**Have a family photoshoot on the beach**

**Explore an old aircraft carrier @ Patriot's Point**

**Try an escape room Downtown @ Escape in 60**



# The Charleston Bucket List

## *for Romantics*

*the Obstinate Daughter is a must!* →

*Learn more about Downtown on pg. 24!* →

*Try Coda del Pesce on IOP!* →

**Brunch on the Islands**

**Recreate the Notebook @ Boone Hall**

**Take a garden tour @ Middleton Place**

**Rent bikes downtown & explore the city**

**Have a spa day at Belmond Charleston Place**

**Take a private carriage ride around Downtown**

**Take a sunset cruise along the harbor**

**Go gallery-hopping in the French Quarter**

**Romantic oceanfront dinner for two**

**Have an amateur photoshoot downtown**

*have some fun with it! grab a disposable camera, or just use your phones to capture the memories together!*





# The Charleston Bucket List

## for History Buffs

to name a few: Drayton Hall, Middleton Place, Aiken Rhett House, and Nathaniel Russell House are great to start with!

Every Friday while school is in session, weather permitting



**Tour all of the historic homes & plantations**

**Visit the first public college in America**

**Tour the Charleston Tea Plantation**

**Attend a parade at the Citadel**

**Visit the first settling point in Charleston**

**Explore an old aircraft carrier @ Patriot's Point**

**Take a ghost tour @ the Old Provost Dungeon**

**Go to a Revolutionary-war fort @ Fort Moultrie**

**Ride the ferry to Fort Sumter**

**Dine at Charleston's longest-standing establishments**

H&R Sweet Shop, est. 1947

Gene's Haufbrau, est. 1952

Marina Variety Store, est. 1963

Porgan's Porch, est. 1976

Bertha's Kitchen, est. 1979

82 Queen, est. 1982



# The Charleston Bucket List

## for Adventurists

Charleston Sailing Adventures  
will take you to this uninhab-  
ited island! →

No need to bring your  
own IOP Beach Chair  
has you covered! →

Charleston Zipline  
Adventures is up Hwy  
17 in Awendaw! ↗

**Navigate black waters with Coastal Expeditions**

**Spot manitees on a paddleboard tour of Shem Creek**

**Sail to Morris Island**

**Parasail over the Charleston Harbor**

**Bike to Breach Inlet & Sullivan's Island**

**Fly through the forest on a zipline**

**Attend the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition**

**Try more experimental/adventurous restaurants**

*R Kitchen, Tu, & Xiao Bao Biscuit  
are great options Downtown!*







# The Charleston Bucket List

*for the Best Instagram posts*

*Cypress Gardens, College of Charleston's campus, & Boone Hall are all filming locations of the Notebook!*



*Pitt St. Bridge in Mount Pleasant is a great place for pictures, and beautiful views!!*

**Recreate cinematic scenery**

**Take the perfect #OOTD on historic streets**  
(Chalmers St. for cobblestones, Church St. for brick paved streets!)

**Visit the photogenic Rainbow Row**  
(try to go first thing in the morning to avoid the crowds and tours!)

**Skip the Starbucks and go to a local coffee shop**

**Snap pics of the unique & stunning facades in the Historic District**  
(Tradd St. is a great area for these pics!)

**Have a picnic on the beach @ golden hour**

**Dine at local restaurants that are picture perfect!**

*Phone eats first, right?*





# The Charleston Bucket List

## for Snow Birds

**Stroll down the middle of King St. on Second Sunday**

**Step inside Charleston's best-dressed homes during the Fall Tours**

**Drive through the Holiday Festival of Lights**

**Ring in the New Year on the Yorktown**

**Taste your way around Charleston during Restaurant Week (happens twice a year!)**

**Experience Charleston's musical past at the Jazz Festival**

**Attend the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Marion Square**

**Get tickets for at least one event at Charleston Wine+Food**

**Dine at your favorite restaurants without booking months in advance**

**Have a night out on the town and enjoy local theatre**

*Second Sunday occurs on the second Sunday of every month, where the main strip of King St. is closed off to vehicles, and many restaurants and vendors are outside!*

*tickets to Yorktown Countdown sell out every year - buy yours early!*

*while 2021's festival is cancelled - make this a must-do for your next visit!*





# The Charleston Bucket List

## for the Girls Trip



### **Go out for brunch (and mimosas of course!)**

*Grace & Grit, Acme Lowcountry Kitchen, High Thyme Cuisine, & Millers All Day are some of our favorites!*

### **Take a candle making class @ Candlefish**

### **Rent bikes and explore Downtown Charleston**

### **Go to the Farmers Market in Marion Square**

*Saturdays from Spring to late November!*

### **Treat yourselves with a spa day at Stox & Co.**

### **#Winedown with frosé flights @ The Co-Op**

### **Do a wine tasting @ Deep Water Vineyard or a liquor tasting @ Firefly Distillery**

### **Go on a sunset cruise around the Charleston harbor, or a dolphin sunset cruise to Capers!**

*Sandlapper Water Tours if you want to see the Charleston harbor, Barrier Island Eco Tours if you're wanting to stay around the Islands!*





# The Charleston Bucket List

*for Sports Fans*



**Kayak underneath the Ravenel Bridge**

**Tee off oceanfront @ Wild Dunes**

**Sign up for the Cooper River Bridge Run**

**Go out on a deep sea fishing charter**

**Spot Bill Murray at a Riverdogs game**

**Cheer on the Citadel Bulldogs at a football game**

**Attend the largest women's' only tennis tournament in North America**

**Watch the award-winning College of Charleston Cougars basketball team**





# The Charleston Bucket List

## *for Foodies*



**Take a culinary tour of the city with Bulldog Tours**

**Shuck oysters @ the Lowcountry Oyster Festival**

**Tour the culinary village @ Charleston Wine+Food**

**Try a new restaurant during Restaurant Week**

**Grab seasonal produce at the Farmers Market in Marion Square**

**Enter the shrimp eating contest @ The Blessing of the Fleet**

**Dine with the chef @ R Kitchen**

**Take a cooking class at Zero George**

**Boil some Frogmore Stew on the beach of Capers Island**

**Experience some of the local Charleston legends**  
*Lewis BBQ, Butcher & Bee, and Hall's Chophouse are just some of the major players in Charleston's culinary scene!*







Ready to start planning?  
We're ready to help!

(855) 244-3339

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