



aha experiences / city edition

The Charleston Adventure

Grand Houses, Everyday Lives

Follow the homes, work spaces and neighborhood streets that reveal how people lived—and how their stories shaped the city.

Charleston, South Carolina

Two days + optional Lowcountry extension

city edition / charleston

Charleston at Home

A beautiful house can hold your attention from the sidewalk. Understanding how it meets the street, who worked behind its doors and what has changed since it was built can make a whole city more interesting. You don't need an architectural vocabulary to begin.

Over two days, follow Charleston from restored rooms and the streets South of Broad to preserved household spaces, the waterfront and the International African American Museum. Meals and pauses belong to the adventure. The order is curated; you can slow it down without having to invent the journey yourself.



curated days / room to make them yours

The Adventure at a Glance

Day 1 follows a southern loop: Nathaniel Russell House, South of Broad and its waterfront streets, Heyward-Washington House, then an afternoon meal at 82 Queen. Day 2 begins at Aiken-Rhett, continues east to lunch at Saffron and IAAM, and ends among Ansonborough's public streets. Extra house museums, meals, music and Lowcountry outings are choices around that core, not more stops to squeeze into it.

Day 1: South of Broad & the French Quarter

Nathaniel Russell House → South of Broad → Heyward-Washington House → 82 Queen

Day 2: Wraggborough to Ansonborough

Aiken-Rhett House and Wraggborough → Saffron Restaurant & Bakery → International African American Museum → Ansonborough

A Longer Stay

Choose one Lowcountry excursion on a separate day. The extra museums, restaurants and evening ideas are alternatives around the core adventure, not another checklist.

Follow the two-day core before adding more. For one day, use Day 1 and omit the second house for a slower visit. With a third day, choose one Lowcountry excursion. Manigault substitutes for Aiken-Rhett Tuesday–Saturday; keep Aiken-Rhett on Sunday, when Manigault opens at noon.

before you go

Adventurer Responsibilities

This guide is provided by the American Homeowners Association (AHA) for informational and entertainment purposes only.

All locations, routes, recommendations, and visitor information in this guide are based on publicly available information and are subject to change. While AHA has made reasonable efforts to ensure accuracy, AHA does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or current status of any location, business, access condition, operating hour, admission policy, parking situation, or travel detail referenced in this guide.

Before visiting, independently verify current access, hours, parking and local conditions, and assess whether each stop is suitable for your trip. Planning allowances are not a promise of travel time or access.

Some locations featured in this guide are private property or have limited access. Inclusion in this guide does not grant permission to enter, use, or photograph from any property beyond what is lawfully permitted. Travelers are solely responsible for respecting posted restrictions, property boundaries, business policies, access rules, and all applicable local laws and regulations.

This guide was developed independently by AHA. Inclusion of a location, business, or person does not imply affiliation with or endorsement of this guide.

Respect residents, posted restrictions and staff directions. Architectural observations are not inspections, condition assessments or advice for altering a home.

Travel and participation are undertaken at your own risk. AHA is not responsible for any injury, loss, damage, delay, inconvenience, denied access, closure, or other issue that may occur while using or following this itinerary. By using this guide, you acknowledge and accept these terms.

before you go

Using This Guide

Build your two days

Start with **The Adventure at a Glance**, then follow the day pages and detailed entries. Day 1 stays on the southern peninsula; Day 2 reaches the harbor and ends in Ansonborough. The extra homes, meals and excursions are choices around that core, not more stops to fit into every day.

Read **Before You Book** and the day notes before choosing dates. They explain the opening-day differences that affect the sequence. Confirm your actual dates through the linked official websites, then arrange your own admissions, meals and lodging. A suggested start is not a reservation.

Make room for the visit

Use each stop's allowance as an estimate. Walking, check-in, queues and rest need room too; individual paths and elapsed walking times are not fully verified. Each day ends at its stated city-center finish. Allow extra time for your return or onward journey.

Read the arrival and access notes before setting off. A street address does not identify a public entrance or parking. Check mobility needs with the operator before buying tickets. Follow public sidewalks, signs and admitted visitor areas. Streetside observations do not imply interior access, and photographs may show earlier conditions.

Take the guide with you

Save this guide, tickets and arrival instructions before leaving. Download navigation maps separately, then open your saved files without a connection to check that they work. Booking, directions and current visitor checks need connectivity unless separately saved.

Use **Your Plans** for personal booking details. The reference pages identify the sources behind the guide; official operator information is the place to confirm current arrangements. If a visit changes, use the alternatives and keep time for meals and pauses.

practical planning

Before You Book

International African American Museum: For a Day 2 start around 10 a.m., seek a 1:30 p.m. ticket and arrive by 1:15. A later start needs a later ticket or a shorter day. Confirm availability. Closed Monday.

82 Queen: With a 10 a.m. Russell start, target 2:30 p.m. bar service. Confirm menu and seating; no courtyard reservation. For earlier lunch, omit Heyward-Washington and seek seating before 2 p.m. House-museum tickets are sold by separate operators. No single ticket covers this adventure.

House museums require stairs; HCF interiors also have uneven floors and exclude wheelchairs/scooters. The Charleston Museum offers photographic interpretation. IAAM has elevators and quiet rooms. Confirm your access needs before purchase; see each entry for details.

Visitor details checked October 16, 2026. Printed days: Tuesday–Sunday. HCF opens Monday afternoons; IAAM closes Mondays. IAAM and Heyward-Washington open at noon Sundays. Recheck holidays and notices before booking.

Guide Legend

Core: follow the two day pages. Alternative: swap it for the named stop rather than adding both. Extension: a separate outing outside the core budget.

Neighborhood stages mean public exterior observation; house museums have separate admission rules. Context is not a visit. Time allowances help you plan; they are not bookings or verified journey totals. Arrange your own return beyond the core finish.

day 1 / your charleston adventure

South of Broad & the French Quarter

Allow 5 hours 30 minutes through the city-center finish; your return is additional.

Start with breakfast before Russell. The day contrasts restored rooms, neighborhood streets and a Georgian double house, then ends with an afternoon meal. The neighborhood allowance includes waterfront walking and time to look. Leave room for the walks between visits and a water, snack and rest pause.

Your Day at a Glance

1	Nathaniel Russell House	About 1 hour 15 minutes
2	South of Broad	About 1 hour
3	Heyward-Washington House	About 1 hour
4	82 Queen	About 1 hour

Make room to enjoy it

The overall allowance includes visits, the meal, walking, check-in and pauses. Adjust the stops and pace to fit your interests. These are planning guides, not reservations or verified walking times.

Keep It Flexible

For a lighter day, omit Heyward-Washington and book an earlier meal. Keep Monday outside the recommended order: Russell opens at 1 p.m. then, so neighborhood, meal and house order need a separate plan. In heat or rain, shorten outdoor time; check museum conditions before buying tickets.

day 1 / a restored interior

Nathaniel Russell House

A Restored Interior

Confirm accessibility with staff before purchase.



Built as the Russell family's townhome in 1808, this house has been restored toward its early appearance. Russell's wealth included trade in enslaved Africans. Its staircase and shaped rooms draw attention, but the kitchen-house research also asks how enslaved people sustained the household. Restoration here is an interpretation grounded in investigation, not a claim that every finish has remained untouched.

inside the house

Look at the relationship between the formal rooms and the household work discussed by the museum. Ask what evidence informed a restoration choice.

visiting notes

Visitor address: 51 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401. Stairs and uneven floors; no wheelchair or scooter access. Allow roughly 60–75 minutes for the visit. Confirm the current guided-tour departures directly before planning around a particular time.

Link: [Nathaniel Russell House](#)

day 1 / south of broad

The House and the Street

Residential exteriors only. No access to private piazzas, gates, gardens or yards is implied.

The Charleston single house offers a useful way into the city: a narrow end faces the street, with the long side extending into the lot and piazzas alongside. The city's preservation material explains how south-facing piazzas provide shade and help channel breezes. Look at the relationship among house, porch and street before trying to assign a style or date.

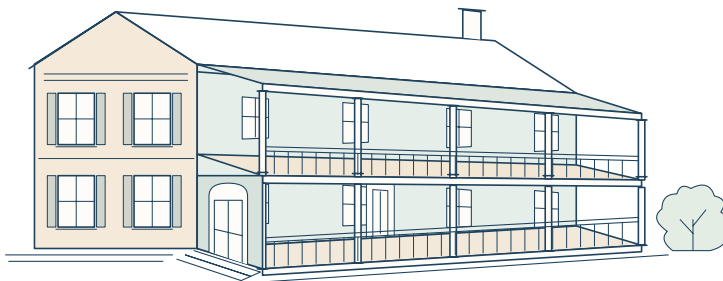
read the neighborhood

From a public sidewalk, notice the difference between the face presented to the street and the side used for outdoor living. Treat what you see as a question about daily life, not proof of how every house performs.

visiting notes

The geographic sequence runs south from Russell on Meeting Street to White Point Garden, then north along East Battery and East Bay toward Rainbow Row. Continue via Tradd and Church to Heyward-Washington. Keep to currently open public sidewalks and posted crossings. The neighborhood hour includes the waterfront movement between White Point Garden and Rainbow Row plus looking time; allow separately for the walks before and after the neighborhood. No private garden or piazza is included.

Link: [Old and Historic Charleston nomination](#) · [City of Charleston historic preservation](#) · [Historic Charleston Foundation house museums](#)



day 1 / house and housing

A Charleston Georgian Double House

Heyward-Washington House

A Wider Contrast to Charleston's Single Houses

Historic-house tours require stairs. The Charleston Museum offers photographic tours for visitors unable to climb them; ask how to access that interpretation.

For another perspective on the southern peninsula, this 1772 Georgian double house brings a different residential form into view. Its separate colonial kitchen and garden make it useful for thinking beyond the furnished rooms. The museum offers audio interpretations of the property; choose the subject that interests you rather than adding a house simply to increase the count.

compare the houses

Compare the double-house form with the narrow single houses described in this guide. Give the kitchen and its interpretation time alongside the principal rooms.

visiting notes

Visitor address: 87 Church Street, Charleston, SC 29401. The Charleston Museum operates this property, separately from HCF. Confirm the house-specific ticket. Touring requires stairs; photographic interpretation is available for those unable to climb them. Allow about an hour. Afterward, the geographic continuation follows Church Street north and Queen Street west to 82 Queen; check present public sidewalks and crossings.

Link: [Charleston Museum historic-house accessibility](#) · [Heyward-Washington House](#)

day 1 / a meal in the french quarter

A French Quarter Pause

82 Queen

Three buildings and a garden courtyard shape 82 Queen at 82 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401. The recommended afternoon pause uses its midday bar menu; a courtyard table is a separate preference, subject to availability.

visiting notes

82 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401. With a 10 a.m. Russell start, target 2:30 p.m. for the 2–5 p.m. midday menu in the bar. Lunch/brunch last seating is 2 p.m. Confirm the menu, table and access needs before arranging museum entries. Outside tables cannot be reserved and are first-come, weather permitting. For an earlier lunch, omit Heyward-Washington and seek a seating before 2 p.m.; do not promise courtyard availability.

Comfort stops: near this French Quarter finish, the City lists public restrooms at King/Queen Garage, 85 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. On Day 2, use SC Aquarium Garage, 24 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401, with the same listed hours. Ask if locked. For a seated water break near Rainbow Row, Hazel Parker Playground at 70 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC 29401 lists benches, a drinking fountain and restrooms; facility hours vary. IAAM's quiet rooms are available during your admitted visit.

Before you set out: save this PDF or self-contained HTML, operator arrivals and your own return plan. Download the area map and directions while connected; live maps, ticket services and new notices still need a connection.

Link: [82 Queen service and seating](#) · [Nathaniel Russell House](#) · [Public restrooms](#) · [Hazel Parker facilities](#)

day 2 / your charleston adventure

Wraggborough to Ansonborough

Allow 6 hours 45 minutes through the city-center finish; your return is additional.

Begin at Aiken-Rhett while the morning is cooler, pause over lunch and protect two full hours inside IAAM. Continue southwest to the public Anson Street segment between Laurens and Hasell. Allow an extra 30–60 minutes for the garden. Omitting the half-hour neighborhood pause covers only the shorter garden visit; extend the day for a longer one.

Your Day at a Glance

1	Aiken-Rhett House and Wraggborough	About 1 hour 30 minutes
2	Saffron Restaurant & Bakery	About 1 hour
3	International African American Museum	About 2 hours
4	Ansonborough	About 30 minutes

Make room to enjoy it

The overall allowance includes visits, the meal, walking, check-in and pauses. Adjust the stops and pace to fit your interests. These are planning guides, not reservations or verified walking times.

Keep It Flexible

Use the printed core Tuesday–Sunday. Keep Aiken-Rhett on Sunday; the Manigault substitute opens at noon. For stair limitations, ask The Charleston Museum about its photographic interpretation of the house museums or keep only IAAM and a personally suitable exterior segment. For heat or rain, shorten the day or begin with IAAM at a confirmed opening/ticket time; an outdoor walk is not a cooling alternative.

day 2 / wraggborough

Aiken-Rhett House

Rooms and Work Spaces

Historic interiors require stairs; confirm access needs with staff.



In Mazyck-Wraggborough, Aiken-Rhett offers a different encounter with domestic history. HCF follows a largely preserved-as-found approach; its Art Gallery is a restored exception. The surviving kitchen, laundry and enslaved quarters keep household labor within the story rather than relegating it to a footnote. Read the rooms and outbuildings as connected spaces used by people with sharply unequal freedom and power.

rooms and work spaces

Compare the formal rooms with the work buildings. Notice what the preserved surfaces let you ask about change over time; an aged appearance is not evidence that preservation means doing nothing.

visiting notes

Visitor address: 48 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, SC 29403. The operator offers a self-paced audio tour. Stairs and uneven floors prevent wheelchair/scooter access. Suggested allowance: 75–90 minutes. Heat can interrupt access; check the operator before visiting.

Link: [Aiken-Rhett House](#) · [Historic Charleston Foundation house museums](#)

day 2 / a core museum experience

International African American Museum

Saffron: Lunch Before the Museum

At 333 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC 29401, Saffron combines a restaurant and bakery. Pause over lunch before the afternoon museum visit.

Allow about an hour for lunch at 333 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC 29401; confirm menu, seating and access needs. For IAAM, continue north on East Bay, east on Calhoun, south on Concord and east on Inspection to the museum approach. Allow for entry and check-in. The meal hour is a planning allowance, not a promised service time.

Link: [Saffron Restaurant & Bakery — location, menu and hours](#)

Your IAAM Visit

People and Family Histories

IAAM stands at Gadsden's Wharf, where enslaved Africans were brought ashore. Its location connects Charleston's waterfront to the households and work spaces visited in this guide. The galleries and Center for Family History trace African American experiences across generations, including family connections, cultural achievement and resilience. Give these histories a full museum visit rather than treating them as a footnote to the houses.

people and place

Carry the museum's accounts of people and families into the homes and streets around you. Ask whose experiences are visible in the city's surviving places and whose require interpretation.

visiting notes

14 Wharfside Street, Charleston, SC 29401. A 1:30 p.m. ticket assumes starting Day 2 around 10 a.m.; confirm availability. Arrive 15 minutes early; late entry is not guaranteed. Allow two hours inside; garden time is extra. Approach via Concord and Inspection Streets. At the covered entrance beneath the raised building, take the stairs or adjacent elevator to the lobby; admissions is beside the museum shop. Confirm elevator operation and personal access needs before travel. Quiet rooms are available. See planning notes for Sunday opening and Monday closure.

Link: [IAAM and Gadsden's Wharf](#) · [International African American Museum visit planning](#) · [IAAM frequently asked questions — visit length](#) · [IAAM visitor floor plan](#)

day 2 / finish in ansonborough

Preserving a Neighborhood

Private homes remain private; no entry or individual-house viewing point is supplied.

Historic Charleston Foundation's Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project used a revolving fund to buy threatened buildings, stabilize them and return sale proceeds to further preservation work. It is a useful way to think about a neighborhood as more than a collection of handsome façades. The Foundation also describes later efforts to help residents remain in historic neighborhoods: preserving buildings and preserving a place to live are related questions.

read the neighborhood

Look at the scale of a whole residential block. Ask how repeated building forms and the spaces between them create a neighborhood. Do not infer a resident's circumstances from a façade.

visiting notes

From IAAM, return west to Concord, north to Calhoun, west to East Bay, south to Laurens and west to Anson. The short retrace keeps the walk on the named street sidewalks. On Anson, move south from Laurens to Hasell, allowing half an hour to observe residential scale. Stay on public sidewalks; do not enter gates or photograph residents intrusively. Finish at Anson/Hasell. Recheck posted crossings and closures; the street route is not certified step-free.

Link: [Historic Charleston Foundation revolving fund](#)

optional / a short northern walk

Charleston's Smaller Homes

An Optional Jackson Street Walk

View the cottages from the public sidewalk only. This walk does not include entry to the buildings, porches or courtyards; business access is separate.

Charleston's domestic history includes small houses as well as mansions. The four restored cottages at 193–199 Jackson Street, Charleston, SC 29403 were built in the 1890s as working-family housing and now have commercial uses. Homes commonly called freedman's cottages housed people from several backgrounds, including freed African Americans and immigrants. The name describes a housing form, not the identity of every resident.

read the smaller house

From the public sidewalk, look across Jackson Street at the cottages' one-story scale, narrow street-facing gables and side porches, called piazzas. Compare them with the larger houses in the core itinerary. Whose homes survive, and whose stories do those buildings help you imagine?

visiting notes

Begin on the north-side public sidewalk of Jackson Street at Nassau Street. Walk west toward Meeting Street, looking across at the four cottages at 193–199 Jackson. Turn back before Meeting and retrace the same sidewalk to Nassau; this short out-and-back does not require crossing either street. Allow 10–15 minutes for walking and looking, over roughly 800 feet round trip. This is a separate northern outing, outside both core days; add your own travel time to the starting corner and onward destination. Check the city's live closure information before setting out. If the sidewalk is blocked or flooded, skip the walk rather than stepping into the road. Sidewalk surfaces and accessibility have not been field-checked.

Link: [Jackson Street Freedman's Cottages](#) · [Jackson Street Cottages: History and Restoration](#) · [City of Charleston: Live Road Closures](#)

an alternative / not an extra core stop

Learn More About Charleston's Story

Tuesday–Saturday, choose Joseph Manigault instead of Aiken-Rhett near the start of Day 2. Keep the printed Aiken-Rhett plan on Sunday: Manigault opens at noon. This is a substitute, not an added house after IAAM.

Joseph Manigault House

An Urban Household in Context

Historic-house tours require stairs. The Charleston Museum offers photographic tours for visitors unable to climb them; ask how to access that interpretation.

The 1803 Joseph Manigault House places a wealthy rice-planting family's urban life alongside the history of enslaved African Americans who lived there. A central hall and spiral stair organize the interior. Outside, signs identify former outbuilding locations; a marked location should not be mistaken for a surviving building.

look closer

Look at how the hall organizes the rooms, then compare surviving architecture with the evidence for buildings that are gone.

visiting notes

350 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403. Use this instead of Aiken-Rhett at the start of Day 2 Tuesday–Saturday, after confirming the tour departure. It opens at noon Sunday, so keep Aiken-Rhett for the printed Sunday plan. Do not add both houses. Touring requires stairs; ask about photographic interpretation if needed. Allow about an hour and use any released time for a pause before lunch.

Link: [Charleston Museum historic-house accessibility](#) · [Joseph Manigault House](#)

optional lowcountry extension

Beyond the Peninsula

Choose one outing on an additional day. Drayton Hall and Middleton Place are separate choices, not a combined estate schedule. Check the site-specific opening, access and transport notes below. Arrange tickets and your actual return before setting out.

McLeod Plantation Historic Site

A Working Landscape

Natural, unpaved paths may limit access. Confirm the main-house lift and your specific needs before visiting.

McLeod's sea island cotton landscape depended on enslaved labor. Today the site interprets Gullah Geechee heritage, resistance to slavery and the transition to freedom, including African American life after emancipation. Compare the main house with the dwellings and work spaces through the site's interpretation. The county's dairy research also keeps an important uncertainty visible: the building's exact original function remains under investigation.

people and landscape

If you choose a confirmed visit, let the site's interpreters lead the discussion of the people who lived and worked there and what the buildings can establish.

visiting notes

325 Country Club Drive, Charleston, SC 29412. Normally Tuesday–Sunday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. The county lists first-come interpretive tours at 9:30, 11, 12:30 and 2; confirm your date. Set aside an editorial 2–3 hours on site, with a preferred morning arrival for tour choice. Water fountains and picnic tables are listed; plan food before arrival. An elevator lift serves the main house, but paths are unpaved. Choose one separate excursion day and arrange your pickup or own vehicle before leaving central Charleston; transport time is additional.

Link: [McLeod visitor planning and accessibility](#) · [McLeod dairy interpretation](#) · [Friends of McLeod](#) · [McLeod site rules](#)

Drayton Hall

Preservation Beyond the Peninsula

House tours require portico steps; personal wheelchairs and scooters are not permitted on the house tour. Unpaved grounds may also be difficult.

Drayton Hall is an optional Ashley River excursion for readers interested in preservation. Historical research describes its unfurnished, preserved-as-found presentation. It invites comparison with the restored Nathaniel Russell interior and Aiken-Rhett's preserved surfaces, while remaining a distinct plantation setting. The Drayton family's wealth depended on slavery; later African American families continued living and working here into the twentieth century. Their lives belong alongside the building's preservation story.

preservation and people

Ask how an unfurnished room changes what you notice. Let the site interpretation connect the building to the people and labor that sustained it.

visiting notes

3380 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29414. Normally Wednesday–Monday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; closed Tuesday. The front gate closes at 3 p.m. Select a house-inclusive ticket and arrive before your confirmed tour; the operator lists roughly one-hour tours. Allow an editorial 2–3 hours on site if including grounds. The shop sells treats and picnic tables are available; food stays outside the house. Arrange a vehicle or prearranged pickup and your return separately.

Link: [People of Drayton Hall](#) · [Drayton Hall time and access planning](#) · [Drayton Hall visit planning](#) · [Shannon Marie Devlin thesis abstract](#)

Middleton Place

Landscape and Surviving Fabric

Middleton Place offers a landscape and household comparison, with an important distinction: today's House Museum occupies the repaired South Flanker, not the intact original main house. Eliza's House is a Reconstruction-era African American dwelling with interpretation of slavery. Those differences belong in the visit, rather than being smoothed into a single image of an unchanged estate.

look closer

Compare the residential fragments with the wider landscape. Include the interpretation of enslaved people and later residents, rather than treating it as an optional footnote to the gardens.

visiting notes

Visitor address: 4300 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29414. Confirm the ticket's inclusions and current tour schedule. Paths can be uneven; the operator provides an accessible-route map, while House Museum entry involves steps. Give this excursion its own time and transport planning. Allow an editorial 3–4 hours on site, plus transport, for the elements you select. Make a morning arrival and plan a meal or water pause around confirmed services. If using afternoon rideshare, the operator advises scheduling pickup one hour before departure; arrange this before relying on the ride.

Link: [Middleton Place visit tips](#) · [Middleton Place House Museum](#) · [Middleton Place Eliza's House](#)

alternatives and an optional evening

Food and an Evening Out

Fast and French can be a breakfast or a simpler meal alternative around the southern day. Husk is another Queen Street dining choice. Leon's is a separate northern outing, not a lunch detour between the core museums. A Music Hall performance can extend Day 1 northward after the French Quarter, if its actual event time works; the extra transfer, performance and return are outside the daytime budget.

Fast and French

At 98 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401, Gaulart & Malicet offers French café food and shared tables. Choose it for a pause around the southern-peninsula explorations.

visiting notes

Check the current menu and service before visiting, and ask the café directly about any dietary needs.

Link: [Fast and French](#)

Husk

Husk occupies a restored two-story Victorian house and an adjacent kitchen house at 76 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401. Its Southern cooking and reused domestic setting make it a natural option after a house-and-neighborhood exploration.

visiting notes

Check the current menu and reserve a table if this is a meal you want to build into your visit. Ask the restaurant about access needs and seating preferences.

Link: [Husk Charleston](#)

Leon's Oyster Shop

Leon's at 698 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403 serves oysters and fried chicken in a former garage. It adds another kind of building reuse to the guide and a meal option beyond the southern core.

visiting notes

Small parties should plan around walk-in availability; the operator lists reservations for groups of 6–12. Do not attach this meal to a tight departure schedule.

Link: [Leon's Oyster Shop](#)

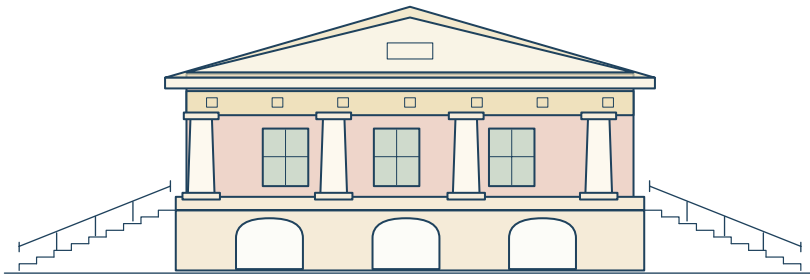
Charleston Music Hall

For an evening beyond dinner, look at the performance calendar for Charleston Music Hall, 37 John Street, Charleston, SC 29403. Choose a show you want to see rather than filling an empty night.

visiting notes

Confirm event time, seating and age restrictions. Accessible seating is on the first floor; there is no elevator to the balcony.

Link: [Charleston Music Hall](#)



places to stay / no booking assumed

A Base That Fits Your Visit

John Rutledge House Inn

At 116 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401, John Rutledge House Inn offers a lodging option in a house the operator dates to 1763. Consider it if the historic-house setting is part of the stay you want.

plan your stay

The main-house rooms require stairs and there is no elevator; accessible-room options are limited. Ask about your needs before booking. Compare the actual total for your dates, including parking and cancellation terms.

Link: [John Rutledge House Inn](#)

Kings Courtyard Inn

Kings Courtyard Inn at 198 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401 is another base to consider. Its operator lists continental breakfast among the inclusions. Choose between locations and room arrangements using your own plans.

plan your stay

Accessible rooms are limited; confirm requirements directly. This is not automatically the cheaper option—compare current total rates and terms for your dates.

Link: [Kings Courtyard Inn](#)

practical planning

Make It Your Own

Time, Return and Budget

Allow roughly 5½ hours for Day 1 and 6¾ hours for Day 2, through their central-city finishes. These planning allowances include visits, meals, walking, check-in and pauses; they are not verified door-to-door durations. Your trip to the first stop and return or onward journey are additional. Evening events, museum-garden time and excursions are extra.

Day 1 finishes at 82 Queen in the French Quarter; Day 2 finishes at Anson/Hasell. Select lodging or parking around your plans and arrange the actual return mode, pickup and travel time. Listed inns are options, not assumed bookings. Choose transport and a pickup/return plan separately for an estate outing.

Budget by choices: count the house museums you want, any contextual museum, optional excursion, lodging, parking and meals separately. Compare current ticket packages only after selecting the sites. This adventure does not promise a hotel rate or a single trip total for every season and party.

Conditions and Personal Plans

Weather and interruptions: check present conditions before heading out. In heat or rain, shorten the outdoor stages, take a longer pause or use a shorter museum-focused day with confirmed opening and access. Old houses may lack cooling; HCF warns that heat can affect Aiken-Rhett access. A mobility alternative also needs suitable surfaces and crossings; a heat alternative needs relief from outdoor exposure.

Photos and privacy: ask about restrictions at each site. HCF allows limited personal photography but requires permission for professional photography and videography. Do not turn a residential doorway or someone's daily routine into an uninvited photo session.

Your planning notes: record the site or meal, selected date, confirmed entry or reservation time, booking reference, access needs and cancellation deadline. Leave unbooked time unbooked; a pause does not need a confirmation number.

keep personal details in your own copy

Your Plans

Reservation tracker

Keep personal confirmations in your own copy.

Trip dates

Visits / tickets

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Meals

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Lodging

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Rental car

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Other transport

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

charleston / reflection

What You Bring Home

You may leave Charleston remembering a stair, a shaded porch or the distance between a dining room and the work that supported it. A city becomes more interesting when its houses tell more than one kind of story.

Bring that curiosity home. Notice how your own front door meets the street, where people gather and which ordinary places make your neighborhood feel like somewhere to live.

A Few Useful Habits

Compare one thing across two places: a street entrance, a stair, a kitchen or the relationship between a main house and its work spaces. You will remember more than if you try to inventory everything.

Let a meal be a meal. The neighborhood connection is useful when it is there, but dinner does not need to become another research stop.

Keep the public and private sides of a house distinct. Notice what is visible from your lawful position and let the rest remain someone's home.



planning reference

House Visits, Tickets & Access

Official visitor pages help you check current access, hours and bookings. Historical and preservation sources support the stories in this guide. Visitor information was researched October 16, 2026; the Jackson Street exterior walk was checked October 17. Reconfirm before travel.

01 [Historic Charleston Foundation house museums](http://www.historiccharleston.org)

www.historiccharleston.org

02 [Nathaniel Russell House](http://www.historiccharleston.org)

www.historiccharleston.org

03 [Aiken-Rhett House](http://www.historiccharleston.org)

www.historiccharleston.org

08 [International African American Museum visit planning](http://iaamuseum.org)

iaamuseum.org

09 [Heyward-Washington House](http://www.charlestonmuseum.org)

www.charlestonmuseum.org

10 [Joseph Manigault House](http://www.charlestonmuseum.org)

www.charlestonmuseum.org

11 [Drayton Hall visit planning](http://draytonhall.org)

draytonhall.org

13 [Middleton Place House Museum](http://www.middletonplace.org)

www.middletonplace.org

15 [Middleton Place visit tips](http://www.middletonplace.org)

www.middletonplace.org

16 [McLeod site rules](http://www.ccprc.com)

www.ccprc.com

27 [IAAM frequently asked questions — visit length](http://iaamuseum.org)

iaamuseum.org

28 [Charleston Museum historic-house accessibility](http://www.charlestonmuseum.org)

www.charlestonmuseum.org

29 [Drayton Hall time and access planning](http://draytonhall.org)

draytonhall.org

31 [McLeod visitor planning and accessibility](http://www.ccprc.com)

www.ccprc.com

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iaamuseum.org

planning reference

Meals, Evenings & Places to Stay

19 Fast and French

fastandfrenchcharleston.com

20 Husk Charleston

huskcharleston.com

21 82 Queen

82queen.com

22 Leon's Oyster Shop

leonsoystershop.com

23 John Rutledge House Inn

johnrutledgehouseinn.com

24 Kings Courtyard Inn

kingscourtyardinn.com

25 Charleston Music Hall

charlestonmusichall.com

26 Saffron Restaurant & Bakery — location, menu and hours

saffronfoods.com

planning reference

The People & History Behind the Places

04 City of Charleston historic preservation

www.charleston-sc.gov

05 Old and Historic Charleston nomination

npgallery.nps.gov

06 Historic Charleston Foundation revolving fund

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www.middletonplace.org

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www.ccprc.com

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friendsofmcleod.org

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draytonhall.org

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iaamuseum.org

34 IAAM entrance architecture

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image sources

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Nathaniel Russell House exterior, photographed May 2007.

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