



Photo Courtesy of Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau

About Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston County and the city of Charleston, its county seat, are the most historic locations in the state. In 1663, King Charles II granted a charter to a group of eight English gentlemen who become known as the Lords Proprietors. In his honor, they called the land Carolina.

The first Carolina settlement was named “Charles Town” after King Charles. The community was established in 1670 across the Ashley River from Charleston’s present-day location. With periodic assaults by both Spain and France, who contested England’s claim to the region, as well as resistance from Native Americans and raids by pirates like Blackbeard, the colonists built a fortification wall around the original settlement. All that remains of the original walled city is a preserved building that once housed the settlement’s gunpowder supply.

While the original settlers of Charles Town were English, as the city grew, it became a mixture of ethnic and religious groups, because of its seaport trade center. The relationship between the colonies and England deteriorated, and in protest of the Tea Act of 1773, Charles Town confiscated and stored tea in its Exchange and Custom House. Representatives of the colonies later gathered at the Exchange in 1774 to elect delegates to the Continental Congress, the group responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence.

The city changed its name from Charles Town to Charleston in 1783 and incorporated, establishing its first municipal government with an intendant (major) and wardens (councilmen). The College of Charleston was chartered by the General Assembly in 1785, making it the oldest municipal college in the country today.

Charleston grew from a colonial seaport to a wealthy city by the mid-eighteenth century. Through the mid-nineteenth century, Charleston’s economy prospered due to its busy seaport and the cultivation of rice, cotton, and indigo.

In April of 1861, Confederate soldiers fired on Union-occupied Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, thus signaling the beginning of the Civil War. Short on capital after the war, Charleston was forced to repair its existing damaged buildings instead of replacing them. The city gradually lessened its dependence on agriculture and rebuilt its economy through trade and industry.

Construction of the Navy Yard in 1904, just north of the city’s boundaries, pushed Charleston vigorously into the twentieth century. During the first few decades of the 1900’s, industrial and port activities increased dramatically. Later, major sources of capital came from the Charleston Naval Base, the area’s medical industry, and tourism.

Comprised of three counties – Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester – the Charleston region is a highly diverse market, strategically located on the Atlantic coast half-way between New York and Miami. Approximately 4.5 million people visit the city annually, generating an estimated economic impact of \$3.22 billion.

ON-LINE SOURCES:

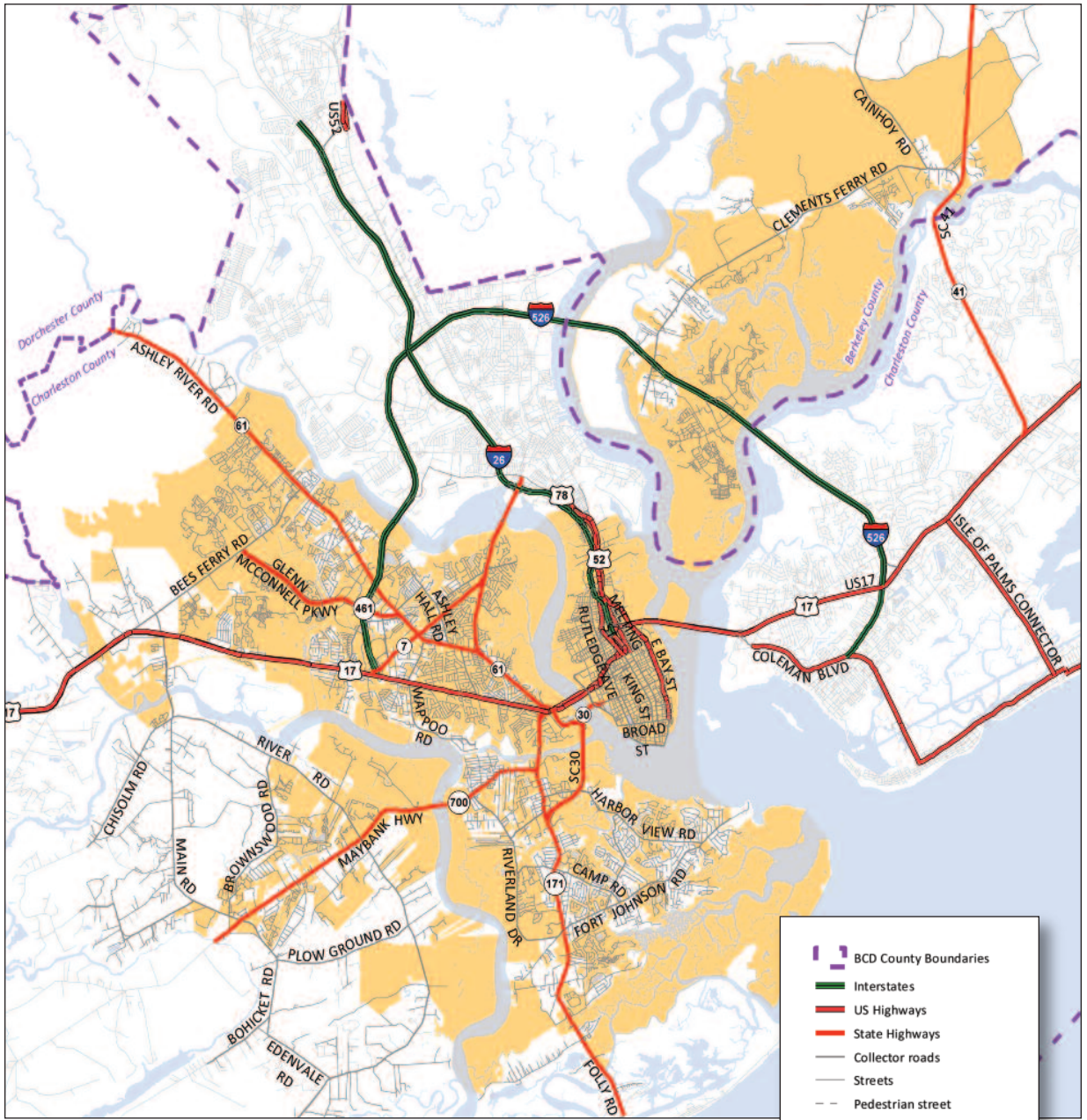
www.charleston.scgen.org/charhist.htm

www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?NID=110

www.charlestonchamber.net



CHARLESTON CITY-COUNTY MAP



Maps from <http://gis.charleston-sc.gov>

PENINSULA STREET MAP



FACTS & FIGURES



	CHARLESTON (CITY)	LEXINGTON- FAYETTE CO.	CHARLESTON MSA REGION	BLUEGRASS REGION
Population	130,113	310,797	727,689 (3 counties)	631,409 (8 counties)
Median Age (years)	32.8	33.9	36.5	35.6
Racial Breakdown	71.7% White 24.6% African Am. 1.3% Asian	72.6% White 14.5% African Am. 6.9% Hispanic	67.7% White 26.3% African Am. 1.9% Asian	80.4% White 10.0% African Am. 5.1% Hispanic
EDUCATIONAL				
Pop. 25 yrs. plus	83,494	194,235	465,461	402,563
% HS Graduate plus	93.2%	89.2%	88.8%	87.4%
% Bach. degree plus	49.2%	40.6%	32.2%	33.3%
% Advanced Degree	18.7%	17.0%	11.5%	13.7%
EMPLOYMENT				
Civilian Labor Force	68,982	168,384	300,802	328,522
Major Employer	N/A	N/A	Joint Base Charleston	University of Kentucky
Major Employer Workers	N/A	N/A	22,000	13,250
Unemployment Rate (2015 Average)	4.4%	3.8%	5.1%	4.0%
INCOME/LIVING				
Med. Household Income	\$52,971	\$48,667	\$52,793	\$49,818
Per Capita Income	\$33,117	\$29,168	\$26,768	\$26,186
Cost of Living (2015 Avg)	N/A	90.4	101.0	N/A
Median House Price	\$248,200	\$165,820	\$184,133	\$154,325

Source: Unless otherwise noted, figures are from U.S. Census Bureau.



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MORE THINGS TO DO

For more information about these and other things to do, check with hotel concierge or the front desk at The Mills House.

Charleston City Market

www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com

188 Meeting St., Charleston 29401

The City Market is a historic market complex in downtown Charleston. Established in the 1790's, the market stretches four city blocks from the Market Hall, which faces Meeting Street, through a continuous series of one-story market sheds, the last of which terminates at East Bay Street. Throughout the 19th century, the market provided a convenient place for area farms and plantations to sell beef and produce, and also acted as a place for locals to gather and socialize. Today, the City Market's vendors sell souvenirs and other items ranging from jewelry to Gullah sweet grass baskets.

College of Charleston

<http://www.cofc.edu>

66 George Street, Charleston 29424

Phone: (843) 805-5507

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, the College of Charleston (CofC) is a nationally-recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the CofC is among the nation's top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. It's beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities and cutting-edge programs, attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world. Over 10,000 undergraduates and approximately 1,000 graduate students at the CofC enjoy a small-college feel blended with the advantages and diversity of a mid-sized, urban university and they pride themselves on intertwining with the city.

Fort Sumter

www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm

Phone: (843) 883-3123

A sea fort in Charleston, notable for two battles of the American Civil War. It was one of a number of many special forts planned after the War of 1812, combining high walls and heavy masonry. Work started in 1829, but was incomplete by 1860, when South Carolina seceded from the Union. It is open for public tours as part of the Fort Sumter National Monument operated by the National Park Service.

Gibbes Museum of Art

www.gibbesmuseum.org

135 Meeting St., Charleston 29401

Phone: (843) 722-2706

Experience Charleston's history through art! Come face-to-face with stories of the South Carolina Lowcountry as seen through painting, miniature portraiture, sculpture, photography, and more. Established as the Carolina Art Association in 1858, the museum moved into a new Beaux Arts building at 135 Meeting Street, in the Charleston Historic District, in 1905. The Gibbes houses a premier collection of over 10,000 works of fine art, principally American works, many with a connection to Charleston or the South.



Photo from www.gibbesmuseum.org

Gullah Tours

<http://gullahtours.com>

Phone: (843) 763-7551

Explore the sites relevant to the culture, and traditions of the African-Americans history in Charleston. It is given by a native born, Gullah speaking Charlestonian who was raised by grandparents whose parents were slaves. The tours leave from the Visitor Center Monday through Saturday at 375 Meeting Street at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

John Rutledge House

www.johnrutledgehouseinn.com

116 Broad Street, Charleston 29401

Phone: (800) 476-9741

The John Rutledge House is located at 116 Broad Street and was constructed in 1763. Rutledge played a significant role in organizing the Patriot forces of South Carolina during the American Revolutionary War, serving as the state's executive for much of the conflict. He also attended the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and is a signer of the United States Constitution.



MORE THINGS TO DO

King Street Shopping District

King Street is Charleston at her best, developed into three distinctive areas: the Upper King Street Design and Dining District; in the middle the King Street Fashion District and the Lower King Street Antiques District. You will find many fun and interesting shops on historic King Street that include antiques, art galleries, book stores, restaurants, and lodging -- each with its own sense of style and flavor, but all uniquely Charleston.

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

www.patriotspoint.org

40 Patriots Point Rd., Mount Pleasant 29464

Phone: (843) 884-2727

Discover history and adventure at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum on Charleston Harbor. Explore three remarkable vessels; visit the Medal of Honor Museum; see 28 historic aircraft and walk the Vietnam-era Naval Support Base. You truly Walk in the Steps of Heroes.

Rainbow Row

83 East Bay Street, Charleston 29401

The longest cluster of Georgian row houses in the United States. The 13 houses are located on East Bay Street. The name Rainbow Row was coined after the pastel colors they were painted as they were restored in the 1930's and 1940's. It is a popular tourist attraction and is one of the most photographed parts of Charleston.

South Carolina Aquarium

www.scaquarium.org

100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston 29401

Phone: (800) 722-6455

The South Carolina Aquarium, on the historic Charleston Harbor, is home to playful river otters, North America's tallest tank and the state's only Sea Turtle Hospital. The largest exhibit in the Aquarium is the Great Ocean Tank, which extends from the first to the third floor of the Aquarium; it holds more than 385,000 gallons of water and contains more than 700 animals. The Aquarium also features a Touch Tank, where patrons may touch horseshoe crabs, Atlantic stingrays, and other marine animals.

The Battery

www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

2 Murray Blvd, Charleston 29401

Battery Park opened as a public park in 1837, however its use changed during the Civil War. The Ashley and Cooper rivers border the park that stretches along the waterfront of the Charleston peninsula. Battery Park is also known as White Point Gardens. White Point gets its name from the piles of bleached oyster shells. Today, the cannons and piles of cannon balls remain making it a fun stop for tourists to explore and relax.

The Old Exchange

<http://oldexchange.org>

122 E Bay Street, Charleston 29401

Phone: (843) 727-2165

Perhaps the epitome of adaptive reuse because it has changed so many times since being built in the 1760's. Located at 122 East Bay Street, the Old Exchange has been a custom house, prison, public meeting place, post office and now a museum. The building is owned by the South Carolina Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who operate guided costumed tours that include all three floors of the building.

Waterfront Park

www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

1 Vendue Range, Charleston 29401

Waterfront Park is one of the peninsula's most visited parks, offering fantastic views of the Charleston harbor. Finished in 1990, the park covers more than 1,000 feet along the coasts and allows

visitors a chance to sit and relax after a long day of shopping and sightseeing. Visitors can watch sailboats cruising the waters and large ships heading in and out of the harbor. The famed Pineapple Fountain is a focal point of the park.



Photo courtesy of Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau

