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South Carolina
Just right.





Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach Boardwalk



Carolina Opera





Ripley's Aquarium



Huntington Beach State
Park

Brookgreen Gardens



Georgetown





Historic Charleston



The Rooftop at The Vendue



Travel + Leisure Readers Ranked This Southern City No. 1 in the U.S. for the 7th Year in a Row

BY RICHELLE SZYPULSKI | JULY 10, 2019



PHOTO: SQUIRE FOX

The Food

The thriving restaurant scene in Charleston has made an international name for itself, and not just the grits, gumbo, and biscuits (though, [Callie's](#) has arguably perfected the latter).

You'll find innovative takes on all sorts of cuisines and delightfully unique dining concepts — from casual spots like [Leon's Oyster Shop](#) in a revamped auto garage and the food court-esque [Workshop](#) to accolade-winning mainstays that never quite lose their culinary lustre like [Husk](#), [F.I.G.](#), and [The Ordinary](#). One reader summed it up nicely: "Food is an experience here."

See the rest of [the top 15 U.S. cities to visit](#) in our 2019 World's Best Awards.

The History

Our country's past is very much still palpable in Charleston, which is in large part to the credit of the major historical preservation, restoration, and education efforts there. As one reader phrased it, "Charleston feels like a European city in the middle of the Deep South." A walking tour with [Bulldog Tours](#) will give a stellar introduction to the stories, sights, and secrets of downtown — from fun facts about how armoires once served as a clever tax evasion strategy to the origin story of the humble, fried hushpuppy. A narrated carriage tour is also an excellent way to take in the city and pinpoint stops you'd like to check out on foot during your trip.

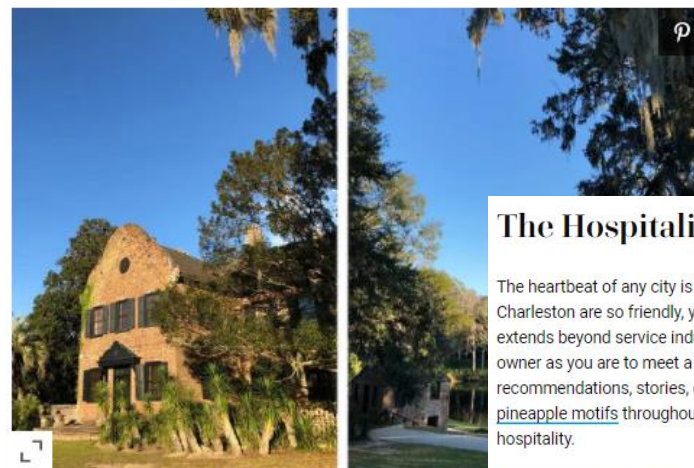


PHOTO: RICHELLE SZYPULSKI

The Hospitality

The heartbeat of any city is its locals, and as one reader put it, "the people in Charleston are so friendly, you'd think you're part of their family." This sentiment extends beyond service industry folk, too. You're just as likely to befriend a shop owner as you are to meet a local on the sidewalk who's eager to offer directions, recommendations, stories, or just a warm welcome. And you'll even find [pineapple motifs](#) throughout the city as a symbol of that classic Southern hospitality.



PHOTO: RICHELLE SZYPULSKI



Kiawah Island Golf Resort



Angel Oak



Magnolia Plantation

Hilton Head Island





Harbor Town





Beaufort

Huntington Island





Charleston Historic District

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