

## 6 in the City: Charleston, South Carolina

By The Denver Post, Travel Section

(Photos by William Porter, The Denver Post )



Charleston is filled with live oaks and palmettos, but the colorful crepe myrtle is the tree of choice. Charleston, S.C., remains one of the most charming cities in America, despite its complex, even corrosive past. Haunted by history, with roots running as deep as the live oaks and crepe myrtles lining its storied streets, the 339-year-old town at the juncture of the Charles and Ashley rivers is a place to lose oneself. The architecture and gardens are beautiful, the people friendly, and the food is outright fabulous: she-crab soup, shrimp and cheese grits, plus New South cuisine that has drawn national raves.

**VISIT:** Charleston abounds with **old cemeteries**. Most are attached to historic churches, including the magnolia-shrouded graveyard nestled beside **St. Michael's Episcopal Church** at 80 Meeting St. Chalk-and-paper headstone rubbings are popular souvenirs. Many graves belong to famous figures from the 18th and 19th centuries.



**DINE: McCrady's**, housed just off downtown's Broad Street, is an avatar of New Lowcountry cooking, along with nearby restaurants Slight North of Broad and High Cotton. Chef Sean Brock brings an innovative touch to traditional local ingredients. Menus vary, but might include seared scallops paired with pork belly and peaches, chanterelle agnoletti with pickled ramps and stone crab, or Berkshire pork with field peas and Anson Mills farro. 2 Unity Alley, 843-577-0025, [mccradysrestaurant.com](http://mccradysrestaurant.com)

**DINE: Jestine's Kitchen** is a classic meat-and-three restaurant, a tiny room drawing big crowds. Star items on the menu include pecan-crust chicken, crab cakes and a host of properly seasoned vegetables, including black-eyed peas, collards, okra and pickled peppers. Wash it all down with sweet iced tea, billed here as "Southern table wine," and save room for a slice of Coca-Cola cake. 251 Meeting St., 843-722-7224.

**STAY: The Andrew Pinckney Inn**, named for a scion of one of South Carolina's first families, offers charm and a great central location near the bustling marketplace and old battery. The meticulously restored boutique hotel, with 37 rooms and four suites, melds period character with 21st-century amenities. 40 Pinckney St., 843-937-8800, [andrewpinckneyinn.com](http://andrewpinckneyinn.com)

**SHOP:** Downtown Charleston offers a wealth of opportunities to buy traditional **Lowcountry crafts**. Perhaps none are lovelier than the baskets woven from palmetto fronds and sea grasses by artisans from the Gullah community, descendants of slaves whose distinct culture enriches the city.



**PERUSE:** The **Charleston Library Society** is the South's oldest cultural institution. Founded in 1748, this traditional subscription library sits in a Beaux Arts building surrounded by oak trees laden with Spanish moss. Staffers are happy to chat. Pictured is the July 6, 1747, edition of the Carolina Gazette. 164 King St., 843-723-9912, [charlestonlibrarysociety.org](http://charlestonlibrarysociety.org).

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