

# CHARLESTON

South Carolina



## RELOCATION GUIDE

for Metro Charleston and surrounding areas



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*A Real Estate Services Company*

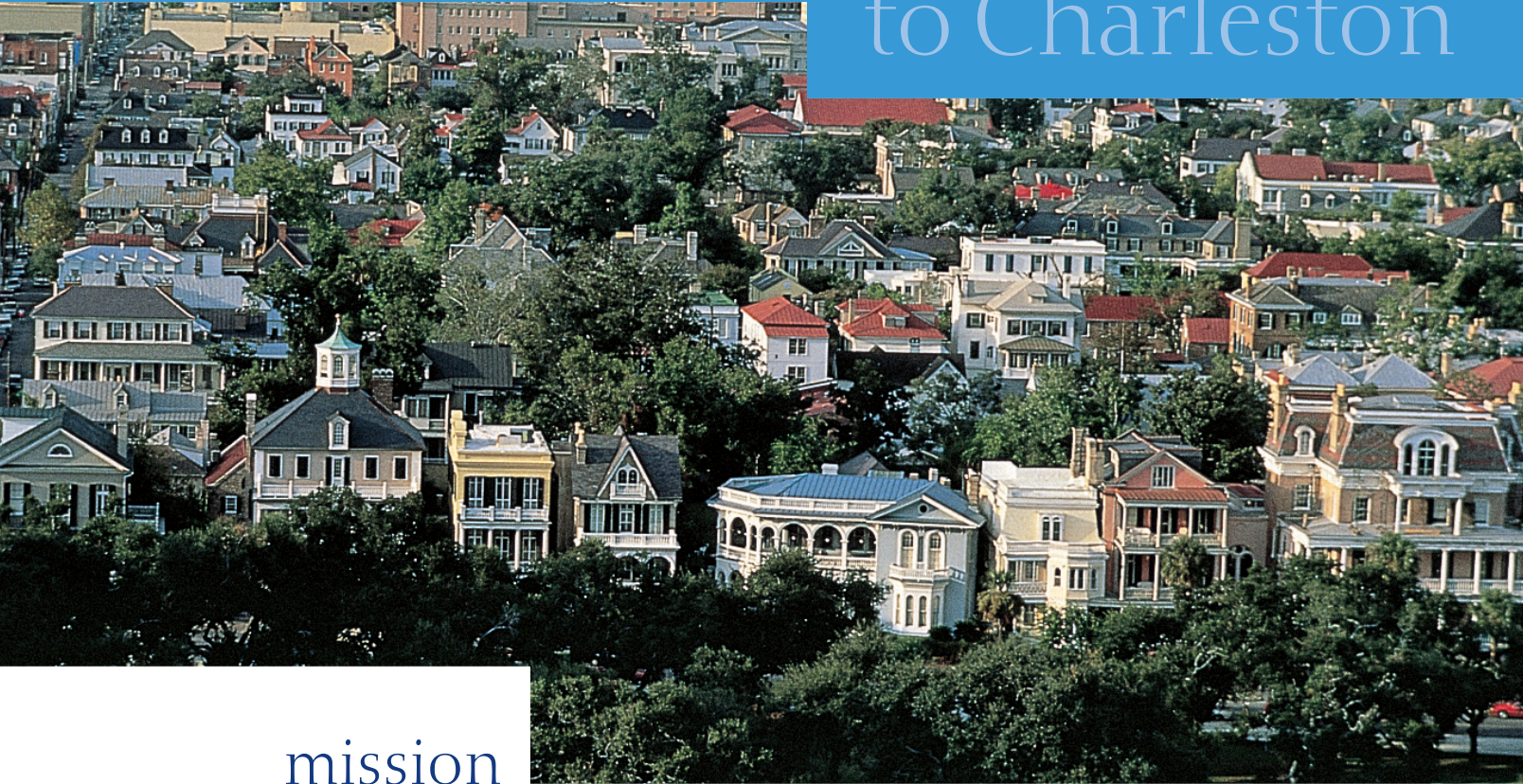


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# Welcome to Charleston



## mission

### statement: Progressive, innovative, a leader in the industry

these are the words often used to describe Carolina One Real Estate. We have more than 50 years of experience and a comprehensive knowledge of the local market. Locally owned and operated, Carolina One Real Estate serves all of the Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties with conveniently located sales offices throughout the area. Carolina One Real Estate participates in one out of every three homes sold through the Greater Charleston Multiple Listing Service, is the local market leader, and is ranked in the top 100 in the nation among all residential real estate companies. A commitment to professionalism, personalized customer service, and results are key to the firm's success.

Today, the company serves the real estate needs of the community with a fully-staffed Relocation department, Marketing department, IT department, New Homes Division, In-House Mortgage Services, Property Management Division, Insurance Services, Vacation Rentals Services and Commercial Division.

Home preferences and real estate needs will vary from buyer to buyer. But, what stays the same at Carolina One Real Estate is the commitment that each individual receives the highest level of personalized service and individual attention. Naturally, the company is proud of the large number of families who have chosen to place their faith and trust in the company, but feels its continued success is dependent not on its history but on its performance and customer satisfaction in each and every transaction in the future.



# Charleston Metro

## areas and communities

It's easy to fall in love with Charleston, as you well know. But what is the reason? Is it the history? The people? The architecture? Or is it the close sense of community this 300-plus year old region offers? The answer is a resounding "all of the above." While Charleston is certainly a historic city, with more than 3,500 historic buildings and homes dating as far back as the 1690s, the region has evolved over the last 300 years. It is in high demand as a place singles and families want to settle, offering a quality of life that is unmatched.

The Charleston region (also known as the Tri-County Area or the Trident) is now home to almost 700,000 people, who live in the following major areas: Downtown, The Peninsula, East of the Cooper (Mount Pleasant), West Ashley, North Charleston, Goose Creek, and Summerville. The island communities are even more popular than ever: Daniel Island, Folly Beach, Isle of Palms, James Island, Johns Island, Kiawah Island, and Seabrook Island. Here is a look at each of these areas and what they have to offer you and your family.



### A Charleston Tradition

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Peninsular Charleston, or "Downtown" is pretty much a household word around here. It's where travelers, and locals want to go to take in the beautiful history. Its major streets: Broad, Calhoun, East Bay, King, and Meeting, along with the hundreds of quaint side streets offer a glimpse of the perfect melding of history and modern times. Historic homes and buildings have been turned into updated (and world-class) restaurants, shops, and cultural places.

While this exceptional history is an obvious attraction, many may be surprised to know that Charleston is also the home of the first museum in America, the place where the first shots of the Civil War were fired and where America's obsession with golf began. In the downtown area now known as "Harleston Green," sat the first golf course and golf club in America.

Living Downtown is an experience many do not want to miss. From an eccentric apartment above retail space on King Street, to a grand mansion on the Battery, there are many options to quench your thirst for living in the thick of a historic city.





## Pleasant Living

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At one time, the residents of Mount Pleasant and other areas “East of the Cooper River,” relied on the Peninsula for all of their necessities (shopping, dining, entertainment). But this region has seen tremendous growth in recent years, even becoming the state’s fifth largest city.

Mount Pleasant’s charm certainly comes from its established neighborhoods, including the Old Village, which contains homes dating to the early 1800s. Quaint retail shops and excellent restaurants are located near the Old Village and on Shem Creek. In addition, many new neighborhoods have sprouted up through this region, offering a wide array of residential choices from quiet neighborhoods to exclusive resort properties, and from beachfront cottages to upscale apartments.

Island living is at its best East of the Cooper. Three barrier islands, Sullivan’s Island, the Isle of Palms and Dewees Island, sit on the Intracoastal Waterway and offer a secluded and charming beach atmosphere. Sullivan’s Island offers a relaxing old-beach feel, with restaurants, pubs and small shops lining the main road that are filled with as many locals as visitors. The Isle of Palms (home of Wild Dunes Resort) is a bit more populated and has a few more restaurants, specialty shops, a shopping center and a beachfront pavilion. Dewees Island, which is accessible by boat only, is an award-winning example of the “sustainable development,” that is 100 percent environmentally friendly.

## Daniel Island

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Daniel Island is a unique waterfront neighborhood off of Interstate 526. It offers a vibrant traditional neighborhood, with shops, restaurants, various businesses, schools and churches surrounded by picturesque rivers, creeks and marshes.

## West of the Ashley

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West of the Ashley is one of the region’s hottest spots for living. A suburban area of Peninsular Charleston, West Ashley has prospered since the 1950s, but has experienced a boom in recent years. Its location to downtown is desirable, as are the many quaint houses that are being bought and renovated at record speed. These 1960s neighborhoods, together with several country club communities, and upscale apartments and condos round out what this area has to offer. Avondale Station, on Hwy. 17 South, is a noteworthy area that offers shopping, antiques, and a variety of restaurants.





## Hub of the Lowcountry

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What began as a suburb of Charleston, the city of North Charleston was incorporated in 1972 and has now grown into a flourishing city of its own, with more than 100,000 people. The city of North Charleston is actually the largest in the north area and the third largest in the state.

Location, location, location has been key to this region's growth, as Interstate 26 practically runs through the city, and it is just a short drive to Interstate 95. The Charleston International Airport, the Amtrak station and Port facilities are also in close proximity, rounding out this area's logistical assets that have given the area its nickname: "Hub of the Lowcountry."

North Charleston is sought after for its relatively low cost of living, and what it has to offer in terms of entertainment. Close by, there is the North Charleston Convention Center and the North Charleston Coliseum (home of the South Carolina Stingrays Ice Hockey and venue for various events), as well as several area shopping malls and Tanger Outlet Center.



## Goose Creek

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In 1969, a survey rated Goose Creek, SC as the fastest growing city in the United States. Since then, Goose Creek has blossomed to a population of more than 30,000 people and is currently the largest town in Berkeley County. However, in spite of this growth, Goose Creek is well-known for preserving its small-town feel.

## A Flowering Town

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Perhaps best known for its Flowertown Festival each Spring, Summerville is a charming town with a distinct mix of old and new. Driving through downtown, you will see historic homes, huge trees draped with Spanish moss, quaint shops and new communities. Just outside the town, you will find numerous neighborhoods that have been developed with every home buyer in mind; from large homes in a beautiful country club setting, to smaller homes that are very economical.





## The Edge of America

A little barrier island six miles long known as Folly Beach is called Charleston's original beach town. Its relaxed atmosphere makes it a very desirable place to live. It offers some of the best surfing in the area, the historic Morris Island Lighthouse, great hole-in-the-wall restaurants and several restaurants offering some of the best gourmet food in the region. While most of the housing available includes older beach homes, many new single-family residences have been constructed, as have several condominiums.



## Island Living

There are several choices for island living in Charleston. Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, and Dewees Island were mentioned above as islands East of the Cooper. West and south of the Peninsula, you'll find James, Johns, Kiawah and Seabrook islands, each with their own special offering.

James Island is located on the Charleston Harbor and the Ashley River, and is a growing community with established homes, a growing number of fine restaurants, and many amenities. The beach is a short drive from anywhere on James Island, as is James Island County Park, which is a 640-acre park with fishing/crabbing docks, walking/biking trails and large picnic and recreational areas.

Johns Island is known for maintaining its rural and agricultural character, but its sprawling acreage and waterfront and marshfront properties are attracting the attention of developers.

Kiawah Island is a private community with a 10-mile long stretch of beachfront property with golf and tennis facilities. Beachwalker County Park, on the west end of the island, is open to the public.

Seabrook Island is a private community as well, with 3 1/2 miles of beachfront property. Golf, tennis and racquet club facilities are available to residents. ■





# Quality of Life

A GREAT HOSTESS AND ALWAYS ENTERTAINING

Nobody likes a bragger, but Charleston just can't help it. Newcomers must admit, there aren't many other cities with so much to offer. Her beauty is the most obvious. Picturesque streets lined with charming, historic homes, beautiful oak trees creating canopies over roadways and neighborhoods, sunny beaches with gleaming Atlantic ocean views, and seasonal flowers that paint the backdrop in every scene. But remember beauty is only skin deep. Take another look. There are so many more reasons to love Charleston.



## Art, Culture, Dance and Drama

Spoletto USA has been attracting art lovers from all over the world to Charleston for more than 30 years. This annual 17-day festival includes international drama, opera, dance, music, and visual arts. Named one of the "Top 10 Art Destinations in the U.S." by AmericanStyle magazine, Charleston is home to galleries and outdoor shows that feature many of Charleston's talented painters, sculptors, photographers, basket weavers, and jewelry makers.

Walk the halls of Charleston's historic homes and learn about some of history's most famous Americans. Many houses, from the Joseph Manigault House in downtown Charleston to West Ashley's Drayton Hall, offer public tours year-round. The Preservation Society of Charleston sponsors the Annual Fall House and Garden Candlelight Tours, and the Historic Charleston Foundation holds the Festival of Houses in the spring.

Early settlers of the Carolinas were guaranteed religious freedom, and as a result, many people eager to practice different faiths flocked to Charleston. Today, Charleston is known as "The Holy City," a nickname given for its many churches. Tours of some of the city's most historic churches are available.

At the North Charleston Performing Arts Center, catch a variety of performances including Broadway shows, children's productions, and ballet performances. Annually, Charleston Stage presents plays, musicals, and theatre-for-youth productions throughout the year and The Footlight Players produce six main stage productions. Catch a performance at the Dock Street Theatre, built on the site of one of America's first playhouses. The Have Nots!, a local professional improv company, perform hilarious improv comedy based on audience feedback in their





downtown theatre. Renowned organizations like the Charleston Ballet Theatre, the Charleston Opera Company, and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra fill Charleston with chamber pop concerts, casual classic series, two dance companies, and a community orchestra band.

Don't forget to take advantage of the numerous festivals throughout the year. The Oyster Festival, Flowertown Festival, and the Holiday Festival of Lights are just a few of the area's most popular festivals.

For a complete calendar, visit: [www.charlestoncvb.org](http://www.charlestoncvb.org).

## Sports and Recreation

The North Charleston Coliseum is a 14,000-seat sports and entertainment facility home to the S.C. Stingrays, an ECHL hockey team. The Charleston RiverDogs, a Single A Minor League Baseball Club affiliate of the New York Yankees, play for fans at the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Park, located on the banks of the Ashley River. The Charleston Battery pro soccer team is the highest level of professional team sports in S.C. Take the family to an exciting game at Blackbaud Stadium on Daniel Island. Enjoy collegiate sports at the Citadel, College of Charleston and Charleston Southern University.

Every spring, Charleston hosts the Family Circle Cup, America's premier women's tennis event, on Daniel Island. In 2006, a record-setting crowd of 92,375 watched world-class tennis stars compete in the longest running all-women's Tier 1 event in the world. Fueled by the Family Circle Cup's energy, more than 2,000 adults and children are playing in tennis leagues, attending camps

and taking lessons on Charleston's numerous courts.

Golf enthusiasts need no introduction to Charleston's world-class golf courses. Known as one of the country's most beautiful and challenging courses, Kiawah Island's Ocean Course was host of the dramatic 1991 Ryder Cup and the 1997 World Cup of Golf, the 2007 Senior PGA Championship won by Denis Watson, and the 2012 PGA Championship won by Rory McIlroy. Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms offers two distinct and equally exciting courses. Of the many more courses to choose from, all provide a different experience. Whether it's challenging sand dunes, breathtaking ocean and marsh views, or fairways meandering through live oaks and pines, Charleston has a course for you.

If water sports are more your style, there are plenty of options. Charleston's waters are perfect for sailing, kayaking, canoeing, boating, water skiing, and fishing. Try taking a kayak tour with a local company that provides the kayaks, paddling instruction and a tour of the area. Deep-sea, marsh, and inlet fishing charters are available year-round. Numerous full-service marinas are available for short and long-term stays.

Beaches, parks and gardens give families even more opportunities for outdoor fun. Visit Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Folly Beach, or



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Kiawah Island to soak up the sun's rays, swim in the surf, and do some beachcombing. County-operated parks on James Island, Mt. Pleasant, the Isle of Palms and North Charleston offer miles of trails for running or biking, playgrounds for children, picnic areas, and annual festivals. Waterparks are at the Mt. Pleasant, James Island and North Charleston locations. Charleston's Waterfront Park and White Point Gardens are just two of more than 50 public parks and gardens. For a peak into the city's history, visit Magnolia Plantation (c. 1685) with one of America's largest azalea and camellia collections, Middleton Place with 65 acres of landscaped gardens, slave chapel and rice field, and Boone Hall, which was originally a cotton plantation. Other parks and gardens include state-operated Charles Towne Landing, home of the original settlers in 1670 and Cypress Gardens, where visitors experience one of the world's most fascinating natural environments.

## Shopping

Charleston's beauty can only be matched by the stylish apparel, trendy accessories, and fabulous antiques available to shoppers. King Street in downtown Charleston is a great place to start when searching for anything from local finds in charming boutiques and specialty stores to upscale items at retailers like Louis Vuitton, Ben Silver, Forever 21, and newly opened H&M. The Market is a tourist hot spot where Charleston's native vendors and artisans offer traditional sweetgrass baskets, handmade trinkets, crafts, and much more. Shopping malls include The Citadel Mall in West Ashley, Towne Center in Mt. Pleasant and Northwoods Mall in North Charleston. Tanger Outlet Center in North Charleston, features designer outlet stores like Banana Republic, Ann Taylor, Coach, Nine West, Zales, and many more.

Antique lovers never leave Charleston empty handed. Find extensive collections of 18th and 19th-century antique furniture, decorative arts, silver, china, crystal, brass, and vintage and estate jewelry. Many fine antique shops can be found in Downtown Charleston.

## Dining

From five-star international restaurants to down-home southern Lowcountry cooking, Charleston cuisine will delight any taste. Chefs trained all over the world converge in Charleston to offer its guests fresh seafood caught in local waters, meats, and seasonal produce that create an assortment of succulent dishes. Native traditional dishes found in many of Charleston's restaurants are a combination of West African and European culture. The most popular dishes are shrimp and grits and she-crab soup. More favorites include creamy stone-ground grits and crispy fried green tomatoes.

For a wider variety, choose from an array of Mexican, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, French, and Indian restaurants. Adding to the exceptional restaurant selections are bakeries, ice cream and coffee shops, bistros, cafes, pubs, clubs, breweries, and rooftop bars. Many of Charleston's restaurants serve brunch and have extensive wine selections.

Guests are delighted not only by the choices in menus, but also in locations. Charleston's historic city provides many unique spots for restaurants. Dine at a five-star restaurant in a restored carriage house, an upscale steak restaurant in a 150 year-old building that once housed South Carolina's Loan & Trust, or a new eatery in a 1940s retired naval building with waterfront views. And going beyond that, how about music and dancing, too! Visit the restaurants that offer opera, jazz, dancing, and live performances.





## Medical Facilities

The Charleston area is blessed with a medical community that provides the highest level of patient care. Local hospitals include Roper St. Francis Hospital, Summerville Medical Center, Trident Medical Center, East Cooper Regional Medical Center, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. The heart of the city's health care industry is in downtown Charleston where Roper Hospital, established in 1850 as the Carolinas' first hospital, and the Medical University of South Carolina's hospital and campus is based.

MUSC has served citizens of South Carolina since 1824. Beginning as a small private college for the training of physicians, MUSC has grown into a state university with a medical center and six colleges that educate more than 2,200 health professionals, biomedical scientists and other health related personnel. MUSC is now comprised of three separate hospitals: the University Hospital, the Institute of Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital. The Medical Center includes a Heart Center, Transplantation Center, Hollings Cancer Center, and Digestive Diseases Center. In the past ten years, \$200 million in capital improvements for the Medical Center focused resources on improved quality of patient care and accessibility of services. The institution, which was recently named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the country's best hospitals, has grown from one building in 1913 to a 40-acre medical complex, with more than 80 buildings.

Roper Hospital joined Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital to form Roper St. Francis Healthcare System, a 657-bed system that comprises more than 25 facilities in four counties. As part of Roper St. Francis, Roper Hospital is a 453-bed acute-care facility and regional referral center located in downtown Charleston. Some of their services include: the Roper Heart Center, cardiac rehab services, Joint Replacement Center, Sleep-Wake Disorder Center and the only hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit in the Lowcountry.

## Education

Each child deserves an opportunity to succeed and Charleston's area school systems strive to offer quality education in a safe environment. More than 88,300 students are educated in the 134 schools that make up the four school districts in the Charleston area. Additionally 11,200 students attend 75 private and parochial schools.

The Charleston County School District has begun a building program that will cost an estimated \$365 million. The plan includes four new high schools, two new elementary schools, and renovations and additions to current buildings. As one of the areas leading employers with more than 3,200 teachers and the second largest school system in S.C., Charleston County School District educates approximately 48,500 students annually.

The S.C. Association of Public Charter Schools presented Dorchester School District Two with the Public Charter School District of the Year Award and named its assistant superintendent as School District Administrator of the Year in 2005. Five of the schools were named "Palmetto's Finest" schools and three were recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. More than 400 business partnerships and 2,500 volunteers helped Dorchester School District Two become one of the top 100 school districts in the nation, as selected by Money magazine.

Dorchester School District Four boasts the highest percentage of teachers with advanced degrees and the most per pupil expenditure. Educating more than 2,600 students, the district offers gifted and talented education, special needs services, vocational training, and a wide variety of core curricula, extra-curricular, artistic and athletic programs.

Berkeley County School District is proud to announce that its teacher forum is the most active in the state and has served as a state model for leadership development. Last year more than 18 graduate level courses, workshops, and staff developmental activities were offered to its teachers. The district is one of the state's most up-to-date in current technology with Internet access on over 12,000 classroom computers. SAT scores are continuing to rise and Berkeley County college-bound seniors have seen a 58-point rise in the last five years.



So, let's be honest.  
Charleston is the perfect place  
to call home. Wouldn't you  
be proud to live here?  
And maybe even  
brag a little about it?

# Economy

Looking for a location to expand, relocate or start a business? Charleston may be everything you have been looking for – and more. Based on recent census and population estimates, Charleston now averages 35 new residents a day. Most come with a high-level education, a wide-variety of job skills, and are looking for employment. Recently, Forbes magazine listed Charleston metro as one of the top 50 “Best Places for Business and Careers.”

## Strategically Located

From global to regional commerce, Charleston’s geographical location is ideal – access to three interstates, over 20 primary highways, and a railway system that allows shipments to be delivered to most domestic markets in 48 hours. An international airport and the second largest container port on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts give Charleston area businesses an advantage in the marketplace.

Not only is Charleston between Washington D.C. and Miami, but the east coast location also makes access to Europe and other global destinations convenient. Charleston’s Eastern Time Zone gives it a business advantage when working with European markets.

## A Thriving Economy

Over the past five years, the Charleston metro area saw a 1.5 growth in employment during the worst recession in our nations history. The region is projected to add an additional 25,000 over the next five years, growth 50% faster than the national average. During this same period, new and expanding companies have invested more than \$3.5 billion in the region.

During this same period, computer/software/IT, science, and engineering and medical occupations have all experienced double digit growth. Educational attainment in greater Charleston is higher than in the United States overall. In fact, Charleston ranks among the top 15% of all U.S. metropolitan and micropolitan areas in terms of the proportion of residents holding advanced degrees.

### COST OF LIVING COMPARISON

All Items Index

Austin, TX.....	93.2
Charleston, SC Area .....	100.2
Charlotte, NC.....	95.7
Everett, WA .....	111.0
Greenville, SC .....	93.2
Jacksonville, FL.....	95.3
Knoxville, TN.....	88.8
Lexington, KY .....	89.7
New York (Manhattan).....	220.4
Raleigh, NC.....	93.6
Richmond, VA.....	101.7
San Diego, CA.....	130.0
Savannah, GA.....	92.9
Washington, DC .....	140.1

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 2013 Annual Report

## Business Friendly

As one of the nation’s most pro-business states, S.C. offers the following business incentives:

- 5% corporate income tax
- No state property tax or local income tax
- No unitary tax on worldwide profits
- Tax credits for new jobs
- Tax credits for corporate headquarters facilities
- Tax credits for investment in infrastructure and research and development
- No inventory or intangibles tax
- No wholesale tax

More incentives include a range of sales tax exemptions that reduce start-up costs and operating costs, and special discretionary incentives at the local and state level. South Carolina is a right-to-work state; therefore, only 1.9 percent of Charleston metro area workers are unionized. The national average is substantially higher at 11.3 percent.

## Quality of Life

The region’s current population is nearly 700,000 and is projected to grow to more than 1 million within the next 15 to 20 years. Quality of life takes most of the credit for this impressive growth. Historic setting, climate, beaches, exceptional restaurants, shopping, cultural and recreational amenities, plus affordable housing, and education opportunities make Charleston the most attractive metro area on the east coast.

### FIVE LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Company	#of Employees
Joint Base Charleston .....	22,000
MUSC .....	13,000
Boeing South Carolina .....	6,500
Charleston County School District.....	5,300
Roper St. Francis Healthcare .....	5,100

### TOP ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTORS

Company	Contributed Annually to Local Economy
S.C. State Port Authority.....	\$45 billion
MUSC .....	\$1.65 billion
Military .....	\$6.7 billion
Tourism Industry.....	\$3 billion

As reported by Charleston Regional Alliance

### EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR CHARLESTON REGION

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mining, Logging, Construction	19.0	15.4	14.2	13.9	13.6	14.0
Manufacturing	22.8	20.9	20.7	22.3	23.6	23.9
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	57.6	53.3	53.5	55.1	56.8	58.3
Information	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0
Financial Activity	14.2	13.1	12.8	13.3	14.0	14.3
Professional and Business Services	43.1	40.3	41.8	44.3	45.4	43.7
Education and Healthcare	32.4	32.9	33.7	34.8	34.6	34.9
Leisure and Hospitality	37.2	35.6	35.4	36.4	38.2	38.7
Other Services	11.4	10.9	10.5	11.0	12.5	12.9
Government	57.9	57.7	59.1	60.0	61.5	63.0
Total	301.0	285.3	286.7	296.0	305.1	308.7

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.



## Taxes

### INCOME TAX

The State levies and administers a state income tax based on the net income of the resident (ranging from 2.5% to 7%).

For more information contact:

Berkeley County Treasurer's Office  
1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
843-723-3800 Ext. 4040

Charleston County Treasurer's Office  
P.O. Box 878 Charleston, SC 29402, 843-958-4360

S.C. Dept. of Revenue  
1 South Park Circle, Suite 100 Charleston, SC 29407  
843-852-3600

### PROPERTY TAXES

- South Carolina does not have state property tax. Real and personal property taxes are levied by local taxing authorities (real at 4 or 6% and personal at 10.5%).
- There is no intangible personal property tax in South Carolina. The local millage rate (set at the local level) is applied to the assessed value to determine the annual tax.
- Beginning in 1995, legislation was passed stating that South Carolina individuals who own a home valued at \$100,000 or more are exempt from the portion of millage imposed for school operations for up to the first \$100,000 of the home. In addition, property tax credits are also applied in Charleston and Berkeley counties from the local option sales tax.
- For more information on county property taxes, contact the county treasurer's office in your area.

### SALES TAX

- 8% Dorchester County
- 8% Berkeley County
- 8.5% Charleston County

## Transportation

Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)  
843-747-0922

The Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority operated by the City of Charleston serves: City of Charleston, North Charleston, Isle of Palms, James Island, Mt. Pleasant and West Ashley. CARTA serves the peninsula with four routes. Passes are available at city-owned garages and the visitor's center. All equipment is fully accessible for the disabled. Call 843-724-7420 for schedule information.

Greyhound Bus Lines, (800) 231-2222  
DASH Shuttle, 843-724-7420  
Rural Transportation Management Association  
(800) 966-6631

## Utility Connections

### TELEPHONE SERVICE

- BellSouth provides telephone service to customers in most of Charleston and Dorchester counties, in addition to rural areas located in Berkeley County.
- Deposits for home telephone service begin at \$90, but the amount can vary depending on your individual credit rating and type of services ordered.
- To place an order for residential service with BellSouth contact: 800-288.2020

# Newcomer Information

### WATER

Berkeley County  
Berkeley County Water  
& Sanitation Authority, 843-572-4400  
City of Goose Creek, 843-797-6220  
Jamestown Water Dept., 843-257-2233  
Moncks Corner Water Works, 843-719-7900  
Town of St. Stephen, 843-567-2061

Charleston County  
Charleston Commissioners of  
Public Works, 843-727-6800  
Folly Beach Water Dept., 843-588-2447  
Isle of Palms Water Company, 843-886-6148  
Mt. Pleasant Waterworks  
& Sewer Commission, 843-884-9626  
St. Johns Water Company, 843-559-0186  
Sullivan's Island Water Dept.  
Town Hall, 843-883-3947

Dorchester County  
Dorchester County Water Authority, 843-875-0170  
Dorchester County Water & Sewer, 843-832-0075  
St. George Water & Sewer Dept., 843-563-3321  
Summerville Water Dept., 843-871-0810

### ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Berkeley Electric Cooperative, 843-572-5454  
Edisto Electric Cooperative, 803-245-5141  
Santee Cooper, 843-761-4060  
South Carolina Electric & Gas, 800-251-7234

## Garbage Removal

Municipalities provide garbage disposal to homes in the Metro region. The cost of disposal is levied in your taxes or simply included in water and sewer service fees. Several isolated rural areas depend on private garbage collection services.

## Obtaining a S.C. Driver's License

- For any new residents of South Carolina, an out-of-state driver's license is valid for 90 days after moving.
- During new residents' first 90 days in the state, they may turn licenses in to the S.C. Division of Motor Vehicles / Department of Revenue & Taxation and qualify for S.C. licenses by passing a written test and paying a \$2 fee.
- Military personnel may continue using a current driver's license and license plates from their home state as long as either is valid.
- New residents who pass the written exam are not required to take a road test.
- S.C. licenses are valid for 5 or 10 years, with renewals on birthdays.
- The S.C. driver's license costs \$12.50 (for 5 years) and \$25 (for 10 years).

## Registering your Vehicle and Obtaining License Plates

- Before registering an automobile in South Carolina, a paid tax receipt for that vehicle must be shown to the Division of Motor Vehicles.
- New residents must have local license plates within 30 days of moving to South Carolina.
- In order to complete your vehicle registration, you must also present a title, proof of liability insurance coverage and any vehicle property tax payment receipt to the Division of Motor Vehicles

## Voter Registration

For voter registration information, call or write one of the following offices:

Charleston County Board of Voter Registration  
4367 Headquarters Road  
Post Office Box 71419 (29415)  
Charleston, SC 29405-7402  
(843) 744-8683

Berkeley County Board of Voter Registration  
PO Box 6122, 6 Belt Drive  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
(843) 719-4056

Dorchester County Board of Registration  
201 Johnston Street  
St. George, SC 29477  
(843)-563-0132

## Communications

### NEWSPAPERS

The Charleston Metro area is served by The Post & Courier. In addition, there are many community newspapers in the Metro region.

The Post and Courier  
International, national, state and local news  
Published daily, 843-577-7111

### BROADCAST TELEVISION

Station	Call Letters	Network	Telephone
Channel 2	.....WCBD	.....NBC	.....843-216-4875
Channel 4	.....WCIV	.....ABC	.....843-881-4444
Channel 5	.....WCSC	.....CBS	.....843-402-5555
Channel 24	.....WTAT	.....FOX	.....843-744-2424
Channel 36	.....WMMP/UPN	.....Affiliates	.....843-744-2424

Throughout the region, there are 25 radio stations.



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# Your Community

## Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Services, and Economic Development

Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce... 843-577-9549 or (800) 882-0337  
 Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau .....843-853-8000 or (800) 868-8118  
 Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce ...843-577-2510  
 Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce ..... 843-873-2931  
 Charleston Regional Development Alliance 843-767-9300

## Community Centers

Berkeley County Family YMCA..... 843-761-9622  
 Jenkins Orphanage Administration ..... 843-744-2429  
 Jewish Community Center ..... 843-571-6565  
 Lowcountry Children's Center ..... 843-723-3600  
 South Carolina Guardian Ad LITEM..... 803-734-1695  
 South Santee Community Center..... 843-546-2789  
 Summerville YMCA ..... 843-871-9622  
 Summerville YMCA Gymnastics Center..... 843-821-2727  
 YMCA, 61 Cannon St. .... 843-577-9622  
 YWCA, 106 Coming St. .... 843-722-1644

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

City of Charleston  
[www.charleston-sc.gov](http://www.charleston-sc.gov)  
 Town of James Island  
[www.JamesIslandSC.us](http://www.JamesIslandSC.us)  
 City of Folly Beach  
[www.cityoffollybeach.com](http://www.cityoffollybeach.com)  
 Town of Mt. Pleasant  
[www.townofmountpleasant.com](http://www.townofmountpleasant.com)  
 City of Isle of Palms  
[www.iop.net](http://www.iop.net)  
 Town of Sullivan's Island  
[www.sullivanisland-sc.com](http://www.sullivanisland-sc.com)  
 Town of Summerville  
[www.summerville.sc.us](http://www.summerville.sc.us)  
 City of North Charleston  
[www.northcharleston.org](http://www.northcharleston.org)  
 City of Goose Creek  
[www.cityofgoosecreek.com](http://www.cityofgoosecreek.com)  
 Town of Moncks Corner  
[www.townofmonckscorner.sc.gov](http://www.townofmonckscorner.sc.gov)  
 Charleston County  
[www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org)  
 Berkeley County  
[www.berkeleycountysc.gov](http://www.berkeleycountysc.gov)  
 Dorchester County  
[www.dorchestercounty.net](http://www.dorchestercounty.net)

## Community Organizations

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Charleston Chapter .....(843) 324-5696  
 Charitable Society of Charleston .....(843) 727-0624  
 Charleston County Medical Society/  
 Medical Society Auxiliary.....(843) 577-3613  
 Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy .....(843) 724-1212  
 Knights of Columbus.....(843) 723-9934  
 Elks Lodge.....(843) 556-0048  
 Exchange Club of Charleston.....(843) 572-3161  
 Junior League of Charleston, Inc. ....(843) 763-5284  
 Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
 State Chapter.....(843) 748-7333  
 NAACP - Charleston Branch .....(843) 805-8030  
 Omar Shrine Temple .....(843) 971-0131  
 Rotary Club of Charleston .....(843) 971-4352  
 South Carolina Wildlife Federation.....(803) 256-0670  
 Sierra Club .....(415) 977-5500 or (202) 547-6009

## Community Service

American Red Cross,  
 Carolina Low Country Chapter ..... 843-764-2323  
 Association for the Blind..... 843-723-6915  
 Berkeley Citizens ..... 843-761-0300  
 Berkeley County Rescue Squad ..... 843-719-4295  
 The Community Foundation  
 Serving Coastal SC..... 843-723-3635  
 Family Services of  
 Charleston County ...843-744-1348 or (800) 232-6489  
 Florence Crittenton Programs  
 (unwed pregnant women)..... 843-722-7526  
 Helping Hands of Goose Creek..... 843-553-7132  
 HOME - Charleston Interfaith  
 Crisis Ministry .....843-723-9477  
 Hospice of Charleston, Inc. .... 843-529-3100  
 Lowcountry Food Bank ..... 843-747-8146  
 Lowcountry AIDS Services ..... 843-747-2273  
 My Sister's House, Inc. (domestic violence)... 843-744-3242  
 People Against Rape..... 843-745-0144  
 Ronald McDonald House ..... 843-723-7957  
 Salvation Army..... 843-763-9881  
 Sea Island Comprehensive Health Center.. 843-559-3676  
 Charleston Animal Society..... 843-747-4849  
 South Carolina Coastal Conservation League. 843-723-8035  
 Trident United Way  
 Information & Referral Service ..... 843-740-9000

## Libraries

The Metro region's public library systems offer film programs, puppet shows, business and employment information, historical and genealogical materials, video-tapes, musical recordings, and magazines and newspapers from throughout the world.

Berkeley County Library System  
 Goose Creek Branch Library  
 325 Old Moncks Corner Rd.  
 Goose Creek, SC 29445 ..... 843-572-1376

Hanahan Branch Library  
 1274 Yeamans Hall Road  
 Hanahan, SC 29406..... 843-747-5400  
 St. Stephen Branch Library  
 P.O. Box 596, St. Stephen, SC 29479-0596 ..... 843-567-4862  
 Charleston County Library System Main Library  
 68 Calhoun St. Charleston, SC 29403..... 843-805-6903  
 Cooper River Memorial Library  
 3503 Rivers Ave., N. Chas., SC 29405 ..... 843-744-2489  
 Dorchester Road Regional Branch Library  
 6325 Dorchester Rd., N. Chas., SC 29418..... 843-552-6466  
 Edgar Allen Poe Library  
 1921 Fon Ave., Sullivan's Island, SC 29842 ..... 843-883-3914  
 Edisto Branch Library Thomas Hall  
 Hwy. 174, Edisto Island, SC 29438 ..... 843-869-2499  
 Folly Beach Library  
 55 Center St. Folly Beach, SC 29439 ..... 843-588-2001  
 James Island Library  
 1248 Camp Rd. James Island, SC 29412..... 843-795-6679  
 McClellanville Library  
 222 Baker St. McClellanville, SC 29458 ..... 843-887-3699  
 Mt. Pleasant Regional Library  
 1133 Mathis Ferry Rd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464..... 843-849-6161  
 Otranto Road Regional Library  
 2261 Otranto Rd. Charleston, SC 29406..... 843-572-4094  
 St. Andrews Regional Library  
 1735 N. Woodmere Dr., Charleston, SC 29407 ..... 843-766-2546  
 St. Paul's Library  
 5151 Hwy. 165 Hollywood, SC 29449 ..... 843-889-3300  
 Village Library  
 430 Whilden St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464..... 843-884-9741  
 West Ashley Library  
 45 South Windermere Blvd.  
 Charleston, SC 29407 ..... 843-766-6635  
 Dorchester County Library System Main Library  
 506 North Parler Ave., St. George, SC 29477 ..... 843-563-9189  
 Summerville Library  
 76 Old Trolley Rd., Summerville, SC 29485 ..... 843-871-5075  
 This is not an all-inclusive list of phone numbers and organizations.

## Medical Facilities

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital  
 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Dr., Charleston, 29414 ..... 843-402-1000  
 Charleston Memorial Hospital  
 326 Calhoun St. Charleston, 29401 ..... 843-577-0600  
 East Cooper Regional Medical Center  
 1200 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, 29464 ..... 843-881-0100  
 Medical University of South Carolina  
 Medical Center  
 171 Ashley Ave., Charleston 29425 ..... 843-792-1414  
 or 1-800-424-MUSC  
 Naval Hospital  
 3600 Rivers Ave., N. Charleston, 29405-7769, ..... 843-743-7000  
 Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center  
 109 Bee St., Charleston, 29401-5799 ..... 843-577-5011  
 Roper Hospital  
 316 Calhoun St., Charleston, 29401 ..... 843-724-2800  
 Summerville Medical Center  
 295 Midland Pkwy., Summerville, 29485 ..... 843-832-5000  
 Trident Medical Center  
 9330 Medical Plaza Dr., Charleston, SC 29406 ..... 843-797-7000



## Plantations, Parks, and Gardens

Boone Hall Plantation .....	843-884-4371
Charles Towne Landing.....	843-852-4200
Cypress Gardens .....	843-553-0515
Drayton Hall.....	843-769-2600
Fort Dorchester.....	843-873-1740
Fort Moultrie & Fort Sumter.....	843-883-3123
Audubon Sanctuary at Biedler Forest.....	843-462-2150
Givhans Ferry State Park .....	843-873-0692
James Island County Park.....	843-795-7275
Magnolia Cemetery.....	843-722-8638
Magnolia Plantation & Gardens .....	843-571-1266
Middleton Place .....	843-556-6020
Old Santee Canal State Park.....	843-899-5200
Palmetto Islands County Park .....	843-884-0832
Patriot's Point Naval & Maritime Museum.....	843-884-2727

For more information:

Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission.....	843-762-2172
City of Charleston Dept. of Recreation.....	843-724-7327
Folly Beach County Park .....	843-588-2426
Hanahan Recreation Dept.....	843-266-0723
Isle of Palms County Park.....	843-886-3863
Isle of Palms Dept. of Recreation.....	843-886-8294
Mt. Pleasant Recreation Dept.....	843-849-2061
N. Charleston Recreation & Parks Dept. ....	843-745-1028
N. Charleston Wannamaker County Park	843-572-PARK
St. Andrews Parks & Playground Dept.....	843-763-3871
Department of Natural Resources.....	843-825-3387
South Carolina Wildlife Resources.....	843-953-9301
South Carolina Marine Resources.....	843-953-9300

## Postal Service

The central branch of the U.S. Postal Service:

7075 Cross County Rd., North Charleston .....	843-760-5421 or 843-760-5330
Adams Run	
5190 Hwy. 174.....	843-889-8533
Old Main Office Station	
83 Broad St., Downtown Charleston.....	843-577-0690
East Bay Station	
557 East Bay St. Downtown Charleston ....	843-722-3624
Folly Beach	
107 East Indian St.....	843-588-2244
Goose Creek	
307 N. Goose Creek Blvd.....	843-553-0321
Hollywood	
6345 Hwy. 162.....	843-889-2624
Isle of Palms	
1000 Palm Blvd.....	843-886-6536
James Island	
579 Folly Rd. ....	843-795-5006
Johns Island	
2860 Maybank Hwy .....	843-559-0622
Ladson	
3213 Ladson Rd.....	843-797-1989
Moncks Comer	
117 Hwy. 52 North.....	843-761-8455
Mt. Pleasant	
1050 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. ....	843-884-8221
North Charleston	
6401 Rivers Ave. ....	843-569-2610
Pinehaven	

2180 McMillan Ave., N. Charleston.....	843-744-7810
Ravenel	
6239 Savannah Hwy.....	843-889-8990
Ridgeville	
185 Church St.....	843-873-3512
St. Andrews	
78 Sycamore Ave., West Ashley .....	843-766-4031
St. George	
5988 West Jim Bilton Blvd.....	843-563-3551
Sullivan's Island	
2051 Middle St. ....	843-883-3461
Summerville	
301 N. Gum St.....	843-873-3571
Wadmalaw Island	
1917 Liberia Rd .....	843-559-0506

## Religion

Religion played a pivotal role in each of the three counties' foundings – French Huguenots, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Jews and many others came to the Lowcountry in search of religious freedom. Currently, there are more than 350 active churches and synagogues in the Metro area. Services are available for all major denominations and several nondenominational groups. Most religions are community-oriented and provide services for the elderly and homeless. Many congregations sponsor day-care and after-school programs for children of working parents.

Catholic Diocese of Charleston .....	843-853-2130
Charleston Jewish Federation .....	843-571-6565
Episcopal Diocese of SC .....	843-722-4075

## State Government Contacts

Governor .....	803-734-2100
Lt. Governor.....	803-734-2080
State Senator.....	803-734-2080
House of Representatives .....	803-734-2402

## Towns and Cities

Awendaw .....	843-928-3100
Bonneau .....	843-825-3385
Charleston .....	843-577-6970
Folly Beach.....	843-588-2447
Goose Creek.....	843-797-6220
Hanahan.....	843-554-4221
Hollywood.....	843-889-3222
Harleyville .....	843-462-7676
Isle of Palms .....	843-886-6428
James Island .....	843-762-7744
Jamestown.....	843-257-2233
Kiawah .....	843-768-9166
Lincolnton.....	843-873-3261
McClellanville.....	843-887-3712
Meggett.....	843-889-3622
Moncks Comer .....	843-719-7900
Mt. Pleasant.....	843-884-8517
North Charleston .....	843-554-5700
Ravenel.....	843-889-8732
Ridgeville.....	843-871-7960
St. George.....	843-563-3032
St. Stephen .....	843-567-3597
Seabrook .....	843-768-9121
Sullivan's Island.....	843-883-3198
Summerville .....	843-871-6000

# SPECTATOR SPORTS

Charleston Battery (soccer) .....	(843) 971-4625
Charleston RiverDogs (baseball) .....	(843) 723-7241
The Family Circle Cup (tennis) .....	(843) 849-5300 or (800) 677-2293
South Carolina Stingrays (ice hockey).....	(843) 744-2248
Charleston Southern University	
Athletic Department.....	(843) 863-7679
The Citadel Ticket Office .....	(843) 953-3647
College of Charleston Athletics.....	(843) 953-5556

# ARTS, CULTURE, & ENTERTAINMENT

Berkeley Museum .....	843-899-5101
Charleston Museum .....	843-722-2996
Citadel Archives & Museums .....	843-953-6846
Confederate Museum.....	843-723-1541
Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon .....	843-727-2165
Patriot's Point Naval & Maritime Museum.....	843-884-2727
Gibbes Museum of Art .....	843-722-2706
Avery Research Center for African-American History & Culture .....	843-953-7609
Charleston Habitat for Humanity .....	843-722-7145
Charleston Stage Company .....	843-577-5967
Charleston Symphony Orchestra League .....	843-723-7528
Creative Spark Center for the Arts .....	843-881-3780
Dock Street Theatre .....	843-720-3968 or 843-965-4032
FlowerTown Players.....	843-875-9251
Footlight Players, Inc.....	843-722-4487
Friends of the Charleston County Library.....	843-805-6978
Gibbes Museum Studio Program (classes for all ages) .....	843-577-7275
Historic Charleston Foundation .....	843-723-1623
Office of Cultural Affairs .....	843-724-7305
North Charleston Coliseum/ Performing Arts Center .....	843-529-5000
Robert Ivey Ballet, Inc. (College of Charleston).....	843-556-1343
South Carolina Historical Society.....	843-723-3225
Spoleto Festival U.S.A. ....	843-579-3100



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