



**IOR** *global services*

ADVANCING GLOBAL TALENT



## CHARLESTON, SC AREA INFORMATION

Known as the "Holy City", for its long tolerance for religions of all types, Charleston is the state's most beautiful and historic treasure. Charleston has had a starring role in South Carolina history since its founding more than 300 years ago. The English established the first permanent European settlement on the Ashley River in 1670. War, fires, earthquakes and hurricanes have threatened this resilient city over the years but it still stands strong and beautiful. The city's historic district today has barely changed, boasting pre-Revolutionary buildings, late 18th century structures and over 600 others built in the 1840s.



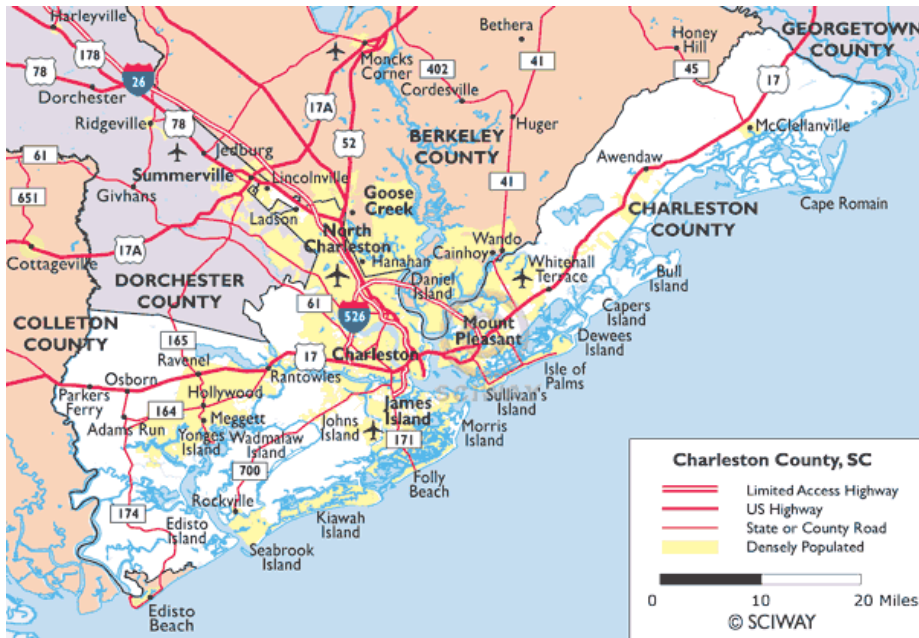
### Overview

- [Official website](#)
- [Visitors website](#)
- [Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Area Hospitals](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- Population 110,861 (2017)

## Transportation

### By Car

Most residents have a car, especially for weekend road trips. Charleston is well served by several major highway systems.



### By Bike

Bicycling is green and it's stress-free! Charleston is home to [Bikabout](#) with biking tips, routes curated by locals, and logistical resources you'll need to wander Charleston by bike.

### Public Transportation

[CARTA](#) Public transportation system offers several ways to get around Charleston. Free to ride to the Downtown Shuttle ([DASH](#)), and run through-out the peninsula to major shops and attractions.

### By Air

[Charleston International Airport](#) is approximately 12 miles (19 km) northwest of downtown Charleston.

## Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the US public-school system is determined by the age of the child. School districts are usually very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the deadline requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability, and contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

### Public Schools

Public schools in Charleston are operated by the [Charleston County Public School System](#), which offer neighborhood schools based on grade level/home address. Parents can also choose from [Specialty Schools](#), with STEM, IB Programs, Montessori, and Fine Arts curriculums.

### Private Schools in the Area

There are [42 private schools](#) in Charleston County, serving 8,148 students, many with a religious affiliation. A sample few:

- [Ashley Hall](#) - private school for girls, K-12
- [Charleston Collegiate Academy](#) - preK-12
- [Mason Preparatory](#) - K-8
- [Palmetto Christian Academy](#) – preK-12
- [Porter-Gaud School](#) – grades 1-12
- [Sundrops Montessori School](#) – 4 campuses, ages 6 weeks to 15 years

### Additional Resources

- [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)
- [www.eschoolprofile.com](http://www.eschoolprofile.com)
- [www.schooltree.org](http://www.schooltree.org)

### Colleges/Universities in the Area

- [Charleston Southern University](#)
- [College of Charleston](#)



College of Charleston

## Area Recreation

Climb aboard a WWII aircraft carrier. Uncover the history of the H.L. Hunley. Take a visit to America's first museum. Whether you're interested in art, science, manuscripts or fossils, Charleston has the perfect museum just waiting to be explored.

- [Calendar of events](#)
- [Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Farmers Markets](#)

## Culture and Museums

- [Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens](#)
- [Charleston Museum](#) –Experience the natural and cultural history of the South Carolina Lowcountry
- [Fort Sumter](#) – Where the civil War began
- [Gibbes Museum of Art](#)
- [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#)
- [Old South Historic Carriage Tours](#)
- [Patriots Point](#) – Home of the USS Yorktown
- [South Carolina Aquarium](#)



*Boone Hall Plantation*

## Festivals

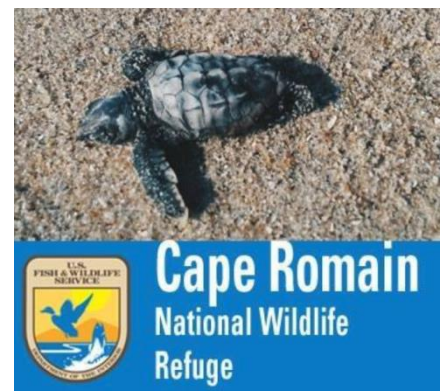
Charleston is buzzing with events and festivals year-round.

- [Charleston CariFest](#) - Caribbean Carnival celebration
- [Festival of Houses & Gardens](#)
- [North Charleston Arts Festival](#) - events highlighting over 100 national, regional and local artists and performers.
- [Piccolo Spoleto Festival](#) - a varied program that includes visual arts exhibitions, musical performances, as well as cultural events and community celebrations, children's activities, craft shows, and film screenings.
- [Calendar of Events](#)

## The Great Outdoors

The oceans and rivers of the Lowcountry provide boundless sports-related opportunities:

- [Kayak](#) down the coast
- [Ferry out to Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Golf at Wild Dunes](#)
- [Charter a Fishing Boat](#)
- [Explore the Great Outdoors](#)



### **Obtaining a Driver's License**

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you have a valid driver's license or identification card from another state and permanently move to South Carolina, you must apply for an SC license or ID. You must turn in your out-of-state license or ID when you get one in this state. To change to a South Carolina license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and two utility or phone bills verifying that you are a resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test. Also you have 45 days to transfer your vehicle registration to this state.

If you are not a US citizen, you must renew your driver's license at one of the SCDMV branches that processes applications for international customers. South Carolina waives the requirement for knowledge and skills testing if you're a first-time applicant from a country with a formal reciprocity agreement with this state as long as your out-of-country driving credential has not expired. Details for international transferees [here](#).

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [South Carolina DMV](#).

**Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.**