

Charleston, South Carolina, USA

One of America's most beautifully preserved colonial cities, Charleston puts its cobblestone streets, antebellum mansions, and legendary food scene within easy walking distance of the pier.

 Pier (docked)  Typical call: 8-10 hrs  USD  English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Union Pier Terminal, foot of Market St — no tender required

Best For: History lovers, foodies, walkers, Civil War enthusiasts

Walk to center: 5 min on foot to City Market; 10 min to Rainbow Row

Don't Miss: Fort Sumter ferry, Rainbow Row, sweetgrass baskets at City Market

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  \$17 minimum, ~\$3/mile ·  **Rideshare**  Uber, Lyft

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Fort Sumter National Monument** — Ferry out to the island fort where Confederate forces fired the opening shots of the Civil War in April 1861.
- **Rainbow Row & The Battery Walk** — Stroll the 13 pastel Georgian row houses on East Bay Street, then continue south along The Battery seawall for harbor views and pre-Civil War mansions.
- **Charleston City Market & Sweetgrass Baskets** — Four blocks of artisan vendors in a covered market dating to the 1800s.
- **Magnolia Plantation & Gardens** — America's oldest public garden (established 1676) with azalea-draped pathways, a wildlife refuge, and a sobering Slavery to Freedom tour that...
- **Boone Hall Plantation** — The iconic avenue of live oaks leads to an antebellum cotton plantation with original slave cabins, a cotton gin, and costumed interpretation.

BEST WALKS

- **Historic District Loop** 2.5 miles · 1-1.5 hrs · Easy — From the pier gate, walk to Charleston City Market, down Meeting Street past St.
- **King Street Shopping & Galleries** 1 mile · 1 hr · Easy — Head west from the Market on Market Street to King Street — Charleston's main shopping corridor — then browse north past boutiques, antique shops, art galleries, and...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:49AM–7:49PM · Jun 6:11AM–8:29PM · Aug 6:43AM–8:04PM · Sep 7:03AM–7:25PM · Oct 7:24AM–6:46PM	
Apr	73°	59°	9d	 USD	
Jun	85°	74°	16d		
Aug	86°	76°	19d		
Sep	83°	72°	15d		
Oct	76°	63°	7d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear flat, rubber-soled shoes. The French Quarter has original Belgian block cobblestones and uneven slate sidewalks — heels are a bad idea.
- Free DASH trolley Route 211 loops the historic district and is designed for visitors. Great for getting back to the pier quickly when time is short.
- Book Fort Sumter ferry in advance — it sells out on busy ship days. Ferries depart Liberty Square, next to the South Carolina Aquarium, about 15 min walk from the pier.
- Eat shrimp & grits. It's the signature Lowcountry dish — dozens of restaurants within walking distance of the pier serve it. Don't leave without trying it.
- Summer heat is serious. June–September is hot and humid. Start walking early, carry water, and duck into air-conditioned churches and museums during midday.
- Sweetgrass baskets make the best souvenir — buy directly from Gullah-Geechee weavers at the City Market rather than tourist shops to support the artisans.

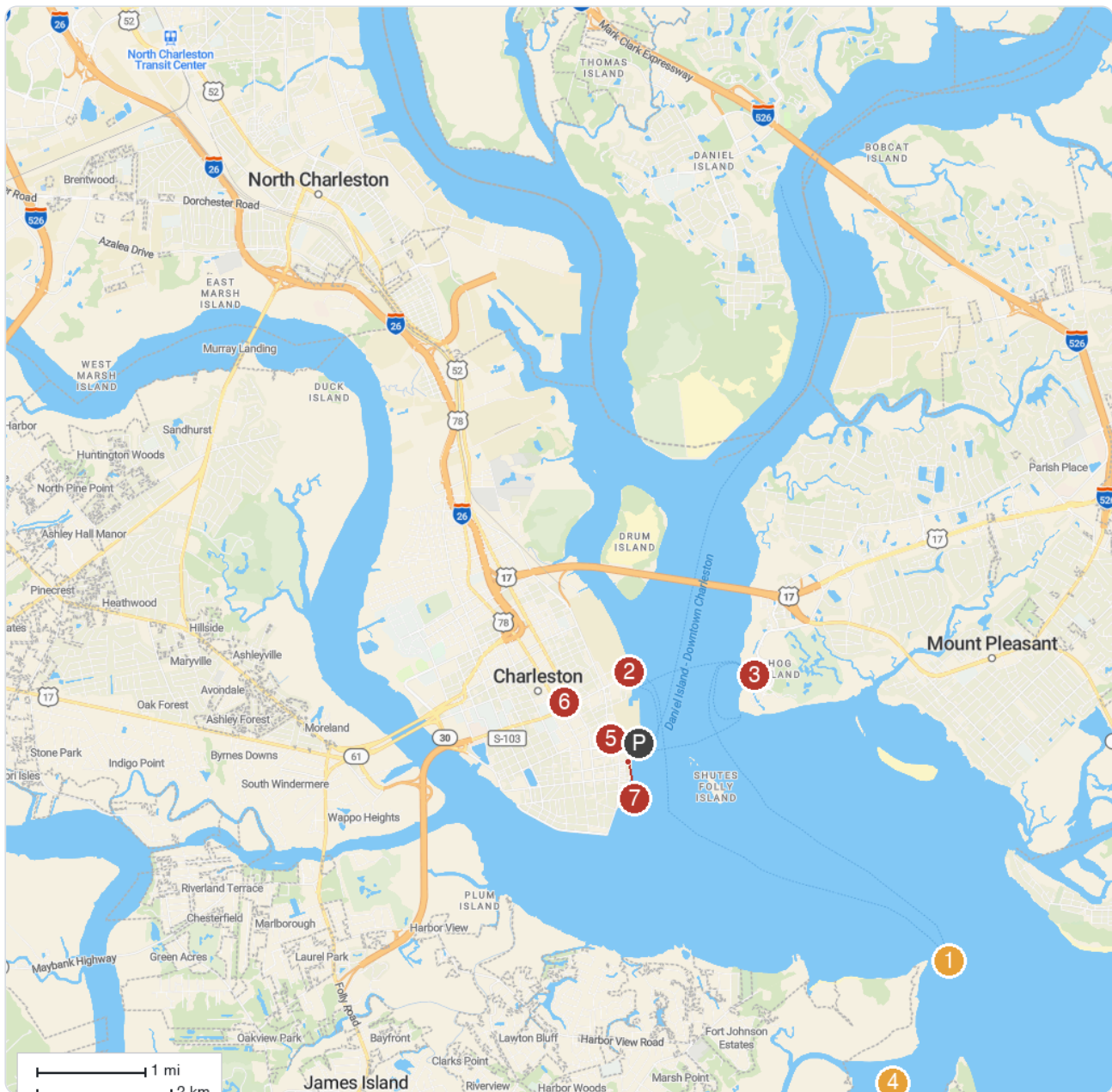
ESSENTIAL TRAVEL QUALIFICATIONS

- Fort Sumter adult daytime ferry \$43; cards only (checked 3 October 2026). Confirm current sailing and return time.

Charleston, South Carolina, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fort Sumter National Monument | Historic sea fort where the Civil War began. | 2 | South Carolina Aquarium | Aquarium showcasing local marine life and conservation. |
| 3 | Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum | Museum featuring USS Yorktown aircraft carrier and historic ships. | 4 | Morris Island Lighthouse | Historic, isolated lighthouse, best viewed from a boat or afar. |
| 5 | Palmetto Carriage Works | Horse-drawn carriage tours exploring historic Charleston's charming streets. | 6 | Marion Square | Large public park in downtown Charleston, hosts events. |
| 7 | Waterfront Park | Scenic park along Charleston Harbor with fountains and pier. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |