

CHARLESTON

AN HISTORIC TREASURE

Registered Seller of Travel #ST12255

Travel Is Fun Tours
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4 DAYS August 9 - 12, 2021

INCLUDES: 5 MEALS (3B, 1L, 1D), 3 NIGHT STAY AT THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS IN NEARBY MOUNT PLEASANT SC, GUIDED CITY TOUR WITH A LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL STEP-ON GUIDE, LUNCH BREAK (MEAL ON YOUR OWN) AT HISTORIC CHARLESTON CITY MARKET WITH BROWSING TIME, A NARRATED HARBOR DINNER CRUISE, A VISIT TO HISTORIC MAGNOLIA PLANTATION INCLUDING LUNCH ON SITE.

Day One – There is much to see as we travel through central Florida, and on up the east coast through Jacksonville and into South Carolina. Our travels through SC will take us through the Low Country, crossing many Rivers, used to transport supplies in the early days. All throughout our tour we will make appropriate stops for rest breaks and meals. Our home for the next three nights is the **Holiday Inn Express** in **Mt. Pleasant SC**, just adjacent to Charleston and all our fun activities. The warm, relaxed rooms feature free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and sitting areas, well as microwaves, minifridges, and tea and coffeemaking facilities. Our hotel also features a hot/cold, buffet style breakfast each morning. Get a good night's rest, tomorrow is a busy day of sightseeing.

Day Two – After a delicious **breakfast** at our hotel, we will enjoy a **professionally guided tour of Charleston, South Carolina**. This day of touring will long be remembered with great fondness. Her stately homes with their lovely gardens, her magnificent public buildings and the majestic churches will enchant you. As you tour you will see the College of Charleston, Harleston Village (one of the early suburbs of the city), the **Citidel**, the Military College of South Carolina and of course the famous **Battery** with its elegant town houses built by planters and merchants in the 18th and 19th centuries. After our morning of touring, we will visit the **Historic Charleston City Market-**



the Cultural Heart of Charleston Since 1804. With free time for lunch (on your own) and browsing the many beautiful, handmade arts and crafts. With more than 50 resident Gullah artisans, the Charleston City Market is the very epicenter of **sweetgrass basketry**, one of the nation's oldest and most beautiful handicrafts. From authentic Lowcountry dishes, like shrimp & grits, to sophisticated interpretations of Southern fare, such as bourbon-glazed shrimp with lobster hushpuppies, the

Charleston City Market's Great Hall and surrounding neighborhood offer a range of excellent restaurants, making for a great lunch break (on your own). This evening we will

hop aboard the **Spirit of Carolina** with the only true waterfront dining experience in Charleston. While on board, you will enjoy a three-course or four-course dinner, made to order from local seasonal ingredients. As you dine, the Spirit of Carolina will cruise through the beautiful Charleston Harbor, past Fort Sumter, along the Battery & beneath the Ravenel Bridge. Pair this with the beautiful Charleston harbor sunset views and full-service bars and you have an unforgettable experience! This boat features 2 decks, the climate-controlled main salon & the observation deck for a comfortable experience.

Day Three - After today's included **breakfast** at the hotel, we have a great itinerary of activities. We will start the day by visiting **Magnolia Plantation & Gardens**, selected by *Travel & Leisure* Magazine as one of "America's Most Beautiful Gardens". Founded in 1676 by the Drayton family, it has survived the centuries and witnessed the history of our nation unfold from the American Revolution through the Civil War and beyond. It is the oldest public tourist site in the Lowcountry, and the oldest public gardens in America, opening its doors to visitors in 1870 to view the thousands of beautiful flowers and plants in its famous gardens. While here, we will enjoy these special attractions as well as an included **lunch**:

Garden Admission - includes access to the 66-Acre Gardens, Conservatory, Petting Zoo and Nature Center, the Horticulture Maze and the Wildlife Observation Tower. The Historic Gardens have been continually planted since the 1680's and display year-round color.

Nature Tram - The nature train takes you through Magnolia's 450 acres of wetlands, forests, marsh, and swamp. While riding you'll learn about the native plants and animals of the Lowcountry. Your guide will point out birds, alligators, turtles and more!

Plantation House - The "Big House" you see today was built after the Civil War. (Two previous houses on the same site burned down.) This tour gives an overview of the Drayton family and their life at Magnolia from the 17th century up to the early 1970's when the house was opened to the public.

From Slavery to Freedom - Before Magnolia was a public garden, it was a working rice plantation. No visit can be complete without an understanding of the families who have lived here - first as enslaved workers, and then as paid garden staff - throughout Magnolia's 350-year history. The cabins featured on this tour have been preserved and restored, each representing a time significant to both African American and Lowcountry history. This tour honors and remembers the men, women and children who designed, planted, and worked in the gardens, built, and maintained the bridges, and labored in the house and the rice fields while enslaved.

Day Four - Again, enjoy your hot, delicious breakfast provided at our hotel before our departure back to St. Petersburg. We hope you have found Charleston both charming and unforgettable. Thank you for choosing **Travel Is Fun Tours** for your Charleston Tour.

COST: \$619 PER PERSON TWIN OCCUPANCY/ \$789 PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY

A deposit of \$100 per person holds your space for this exciting tour, balance due June 30, 2021. Travel protection is available from Travel Insured International, please register, if desired at the link on our website WWW.TIFTOURS.COM

Remaining space will continue to be offered as available.

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