



MyBaseGuide

MILITARY RELOCATION

Welcome to Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties

Home of Joint Base Charleston



Open to All Military Branches. Roger That.

We're here to help the military
community and their families make
the most of their money.

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Our Members Are the Mission

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**CENTRAL
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HANAHAN, SC 29410



Kids will spend 11 minutes dressing Spike up like a princess. How about two minutes to brush their teeth?

Brushing for two minutes now can save your child from severe tooth pain later. Two minutes, twice a day. They have the time. For fun, 2-minute videos to watch while brushing, go to 2minutetv.com.



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1 In 6 Americans Struggles with Hunger.



Hunger is closer than you think. Reach out to your local food bank for ways to do your part. Visit FeedingAmerica.org today.



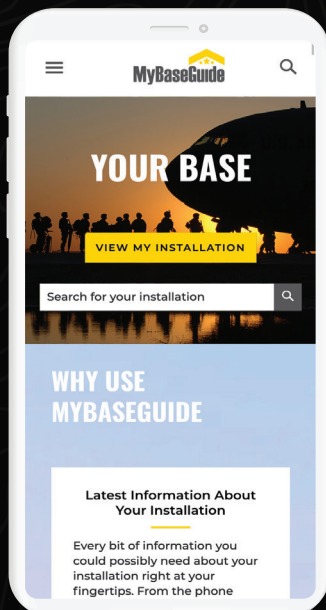
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an Hour™**

Give help | Give hope
www.giveanhour.org

- anxiety
- depression
- substance abuse
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- traumatic brain injuries
- sexual health and intimacy concerns
- loss and grieving and more

**The wounds of war are not easy to see.
Give an Hour | Get an Hour**

MyBaseGuide



The New MyBaseGuide.com

Supporting Military Members And Their Families On and Off Base



BASE INFO

Every bit of information you could possibly need about your post right at your fingertips.



DEALS

Discover military discounts from local businesses in your area as a thank you for your service.



EMPLOYMENT

Find a new job in your area with the help of our free job board tailored specifically for military spouses and veterans.



REAL ESTATE

Whether you're looking to buy or rent, we've got you covered. Search available homes and find the right place for you.



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Please visit us at www.marcoa.com and www.mybasegov.com



www.marcoa.com

Supporting Those Who Serve



Our Military

in ~~Charleston~~ Berkeley and Dorchester counties

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON CONSISTS of two installations separated by about 12 miles. The air base sits roughly 10 miles from historic downtown Charleston, South Carolina, and lies within the North Charleston city limits in the heart of what is known locally as the Lowcountry — where pine and oak forests meet the natural beauty of the Intracoastal Waterway marshes and barrier island beaches. The naval weapons station sits on the west bank of the Cooper River in the cities of Goose Creek and Hanahan. From the weapons station, Charleston is a 40-minute drive south.

Joint Base Charleston covers almost 24,000 acres. The base maintains \$7.5 billion in base property and capital assets spanning three seaports, two civilian-military airfields, 39 miles of rail and 22 miles of coastline. Unique base programs include operation of three locomotives critical to moving crucial munitions, MRAPS and tanks, as well as participation in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

Joint Base Charleston also offers unique installation support missions, including the harbor security patrol, the transportation isolation system and the Cooper River dredging.

The base's mission includes six different focus areas: installation support, airlift and airdrop operations, training naval nuclear operators, deployable logistics, multimission war fighter support and interagency cooperation.

Joint Base Charleston is host to more than 60 DOD and federal agencies. Major organizations at the air base include the 628th Air Base Wing, the 437th Airlift Wing and the 315th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve). Major organizations at the naval weapons station include Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston, the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic and the 841st Army Transportation Battalion. For a full list of units and organizations at Joint Base Charleston, visit www.jbcharleston.jb.mil/Units.

Population

Joint Base Charleston services a total population of 90,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian personnel, family members and retirees.

Economic Impact

The Charleston region contains the largest military presence in South Carolina. According to a 2017 economic impact study by the South Carolina Military Base Task Force and the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business, Joint Base Charleston has a total economic impact of \$8.7 billion each year. The base is associated with approximately 50,000 jobs and \$3.6 billion in labor income.

HISTORY

Charleston Air Force Base got its start in the 1900s as a local airfield. As interest spiked in aviation because of Charles Lindbergh's crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in 1927, the city of Charleston began operating a small airfield 10 miles from the city limits. The city created the Charleston

Continued on Page 7

QUICK REFERENCE NUMBERS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

All phone numbers are subject to change. For more information, call directory assistance at 843-963-1110.

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| American Red Cross | 877-272-7337 | Golf Courses | |
| Aquatics | | Air base | 843-963-1833 |
| Air base | 843-963-1672 | Weapons station | 843-794-7828 |
| Weapons station | 843-794-4092 | Health Care | |
| Auto Skills Center | 843-794-7752 | Air base appointments | 843-963-6880 |
| Banks and Credit Unions | | Weapons station appointments | 843-794-6221 |
| Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union | 843-820-6070 | Housing, Family | |
| Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union | 843-832-2700 | Air base | 844-219-9093 |
| Bowling Centers | | Weapons station | 843-797-5631 |
| Air base | 843-963-3315 | Housing Management Offices | |
| Weapons station | 843-794-7235 | Air base | 843-963-3858 |
| Chapels | | Weapons station | 843-794-7265 |
| Air base | 843-963-2536 | Housing, Unaccompanied | |
| Weapons station | 843-794-7222 | Air base | 843-963-7255 |
| Child Development Centers and Child Care | | Weapons station | 843-794-7646 |
| Air base CDC | 843-963-4366 | Human Resources Office | 843-963-7848 |
| Family Child Care | 843-963-2546 | Legal Assistance | |
| Weapons station CDC | 843-794-7408 | Air base | 843-963-5502 |
| Commissaries | | Weapons station | 843-963-5502 |
| Air base | 843-963-7469 | Library | |
| Weapons station | 843-794-2020 | Air base | 843-963-3320 |
| Dining, Air Base | | Weapons station | 843-794-7900 |
| Gaylor Dining Facility | 843-963-3590 | Military OneSource | 800-342-9647 |
| Globemaster Grill (Wrenwoods Golf Course) | 843-963-1840 | Movie Theater | 843-794-2120 |
| Rookies Sports Grill (Charleston Club) | 843-963-3922 | Outdoor Recreation | |
| Snack bar (Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center) | 843-963-3316 | Air base | 843-963-1672 |
| Starbucks (Charleston Club) | 843-963-3914 | Weapons station | 843-794-2120 |
| Dining, Weapons Station | | Professional Enhancement Center | 843-963-2768 |
| Dive Bar & Grill | 843-794-4238 | School Liaison | |
| Fairway Grill (Redbank Plantation Golf Course) | 843-794-7828 | Air base | 843-963-4406 |
| Galley | 843-794-8215 | Weapons station | 843-794-7480 |
| Redbank Club | 843-794-7797 | Sexual Assault Prevention and Response | |
| Snack bar (Marrington Bowling Center) | 843-794-7235 | Air base | 843-963-7272 |
| DOD Safe Helpline | 877-995-5247 | Weapons station | 843-478-8615 |
| Education Center | 843-963-4575 | Single Service Member Programs | |
| Exceptional Family Member Program | | Air base | 843-963-1672 |
| Air base | 843-963-4406 | Weapons station | 843-296-3942 |
| Weapons station | 843-794-7480 | Suicide Prevention Lifeline | 800-273-8255 |
| Exchanges | | Temporary Lodging, Inns of Charleston | 843-963-8000 |
| Air base | 843-552-5000 | Tickets and Travel Services | |
| Weapons station | 843-794-7042 | Air base | 843-963-1672 |
| Family Support | | Weapons station | 843-794-2122 |
| Airman & Family Readiness Center | 843-963-4406 | Veterinary Services | 843-963-1738 |
| Fleet & Family Support Center | 843-794-7480 | Youth Programs | |
| Fitness Centers | | Air base | 843-963-5684 |
| Air base | 843-963-3347 | Weapons station | 843-794-7809 |
| Weapons station | 843-794-4173 | | |
| | 843-794-7102 | | |
| Framing, Engraving and Gifts | 843-963-1936 | | |

Continued from Page 5

Aircraft Corp., purchasing 432 acres from the South Carolina Mining and Manufacturing Co., and acquired the airport facility that same year.

As the world of aviation expanded so did the airfield; improvements costing more than \$300,000 were made to the airport in the 1930s and it quickly grew into a hub. With the advent of World War II, the Army Air Corps entered the picture and the War Department assumed control of Charleston Municipal Airport. It was formally activated as a base in 1942.

In October of that year, the base was officially named Charleston Army Air Base under the command of Col. Hoyt Prindle. By June 1943, it was renamed Charleston Army Air Field, serving mainly as an air depot training station and providing the final phase of training to service groups. The base grew during the next few years from about 1,000 to more than 2,000 acres, and nearly \$12 million was invested in improvements and new facilities.

With the end of World War II, the government put the base in a surplus status, and the city of Charleston requested the airfield's return. A new air terminal was constructed in 1947 and commercial operations resumed, with the airfield operating once again as a civilian airport.

The Cold War brought more changes, and the U.S. Air Force received a \$28 million public works improvement package approved by Congress to begin troop carrier operations out of Charleston's airport. A lease agreement was signed between the city and the Air Force that gave the Air Force use of all properties south and west of the Southern Railway tracks. Construction for new base facilities began in 1952, and in 1953 the base was named Charleston Air Force Base.

In 1962, the Air Force decided to retire its C-121 fleet, and two years later, Charleston Air Force Base received its first C-141 Starlifters, which resulted in a change in host units. The 437th Military Airlift Wing assumed command in 1966.

By 1992, the Air Force had completed a systemwide reorganization and the 437th Military Airlift Wing and 315th Military Airlift Wing were both placed under the Air Mobility Command and renamed the 437th Airlift Wing and the 315th Airlift Wing.

The base has remained an alert site for fighter-interceptor aircraft. Even though the last unit to occupy the alert site was a detachment of F-16s from the 158th Fighter Wing in 1999, after the 2011 terrorist attacks in the U.S., the facility began to see some operations by Air Force fighter aircraft resuming the continental defense mission.

COURTESY PHOTO



JOINT BASE CHARLESTON ONLINE

Official site: www.jbcharleston.jb.mil
Force Support Squadron: www.jbcharleston.com

DIGITAL GUIDE



www.mybaseguide.com/joint_bases/81/joint_base_charleston



Mobile App
www.mbgapp.com

Download the free MyBaseGuide app to your mobile device and find more information about local health care, education, housing and recreational activities on the Around Town tab for Joint Base Charleston.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook
www.fb.com/TeamCharleston



Twitter
www.twitter.com/TeamCharleston

People around the world increasingly stay connected through social media, whether it be with a deployed service member, with friends and families in locations around the world or with the bases where you have been stationed or expect to transfer.

Here are some safety tips for using social media:

1. Never post confidential personal information such as your date of birth, address, Social Security number, or bank and credit card account numbers. Never provide this type of information when signing up for a social networking site. Most sites

do not require it, and you should be wary of those that do.

2. Don't invite people whom you do not know to be your "friend." You do not want strangers to know details about you or your family.
3. Never share operational information, such as upcoming ports of call and military exercises. Such information can compromise operational security and the safety of our service members.

The Public Affairs Office can provide guidance on the type of information not to be shared in a public forum such as a social network or blog.

DOCUMENTS TO CARRY FOR INPROCESSING

- Several copies of your orders.
- Certified copies of birth certificates, adoption papers, naturalization papers, marriage license, divorce papers, etc.
- Copy of advanced pay or allowance paperwork.
- All moving paperwork including TMO information, self-move paperwork and all receipts associated with moving.
- Employment records or resumes of civilian family members.
- Medical and dental records of your entire family from your previous duty station.
- Immunization records for all children, active-duty members and pets.
- School records and transcripts for students.
- Copies of all insurance policies.
- Copies of all occupational licenses and certifications.
- Purchase agreements for vehicles, showing state sales tax paid.
- Vehicle registrations and titles.
- Household goods inventory.
- Letters of credit from utility companies.
- Copies of federal income tax forms.
- Copies of recent leave and earnings statements.

In 2005, a Base Realignment and Closure list released by the Department of Defense included Charleston. This meant Charleston Air Force Base would become a joint base with the nearby naval weapons station, with implementation beginning in September 2007.

A year later, the base had grown to almost 3,500 acres, with thousands of active-duty and reserve personnel and families and hundreds of civilian employees. The base still shares flight lines with Charleston International Airport.

In 2009, the Air Force announced the activation of the 628th Air Base Wing, which now provides installation support and service to more than 90,000 airmen, sailors, soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, contractors, retirees and family members on the air base and at the naval weapons station. Going fully operational as Joint Base Charleston in October 2010, personnel have worked to make the joint base a success.

ORGANIZATIONS

628TH AIR BASE WING

The 628th Air Base Wing provides installation support to more than 60 DOD and federal agencies, serving a total force of more

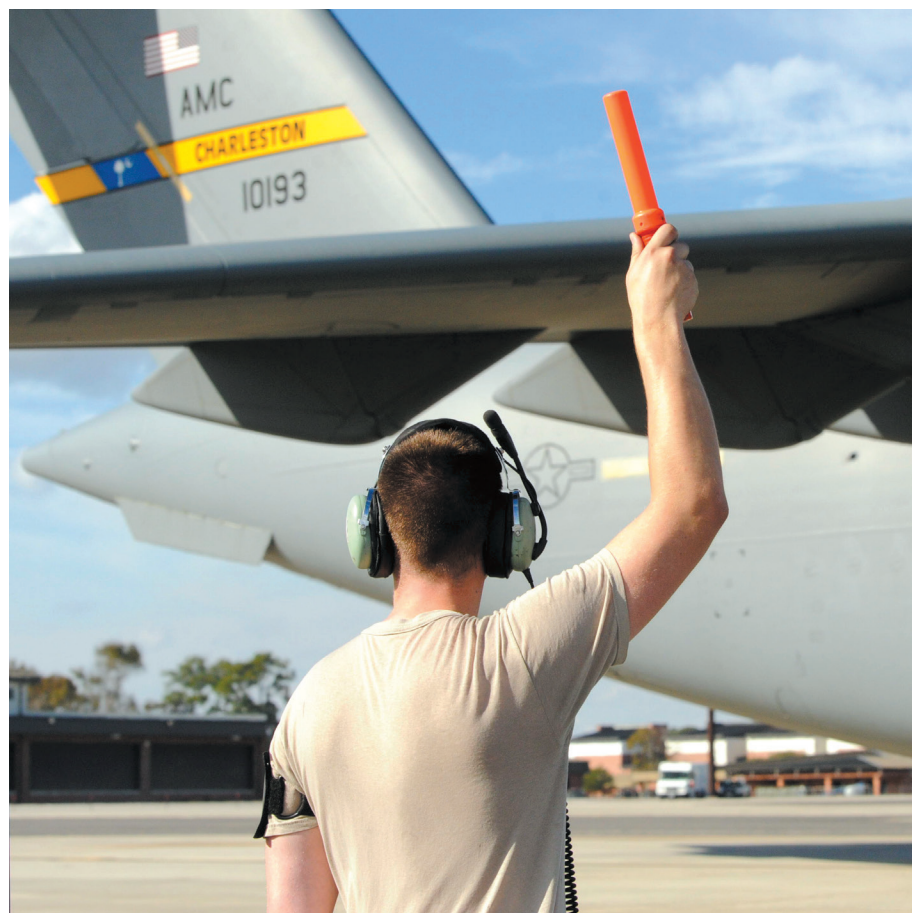


PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MEGAN MINOZ

than 90,000 airmen, sailors, soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilians, family members and retirees across four installations, including the air base and the weapons station.

The wing supports Joint Base Charleston's airfield, sharing two intersecting runways with Charleston International Airport. The primary runway is 9,000 feet long, and the intersecting runway is 7,000 feet long. The base maintains the two runways, most of the taxiways, and security and crash rescue response for all flights.

The wing is comprised of two operational groups and a wing staff directorate. The 628th Mission Support Group provides programs, policies, services and facilities in support of the 628th Air Base Wing and its mission partners. The multiservice mission for Joint Base Charleston consists of communication, contracting, supply, transportation, logistical support, civil engineering, personnel, security, law enforcement, family support, and morale, welfare and recreation services.

The 628th Medical Group provides quality managed health care for eligible beneficiaries and ensures wing personnel are medically prepared for deployments.

Wing staff includes agencies that directly support the wing commander and the installation.

437TH AIRLIFT WING

The 437th Airlift Wing is Joint Base Charleston's premier active-duty flying wing. The wing's mission is to safely provide precise, reliable airlift worldwide. The wing commands assigned airlift and supporting units to maintain assigned C-17A aircraft; to load and unload passengers, out-sized equipment and bulk cargo; and for aeromedical evacuation. The wing also trains and executes the only C-17A special operations capability in the Air Force. In addition to its substantial airdrop and special operations commitments, the wing's missions range from supporting U.S. embassies to supplying humanitarian airlift relief to victims of disasters. The wing also supports the Denton Program, which provides space-available transportation to non-profit organizations, providing humanitarian cargo to more than 11 countries.

315TH AIRLIFT WING

One of the primary missions of the 315th Airlift Wing is to prepare, equip and train

reserve airmen to be a source of augmentation for their active-duty counterparts in the 437th Airlift Wing. This augmentation includes rapid response to natural disaster relief because of the expansion of the Air Force strategic mission and aeromedical airlift capabilities.

Additionally, the wing performs a wide range of peacetime missions and, as part of Team Charleston, integrates with the 437th Airlift Wing to provide support for Air Mobility Command taskings.

NAVAL CONSOLIDATED BRIG CHARLESTON

Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston ensures the security, good order, discipline and safety of adjudged and pretrial prisoners. The brig also aims to retrain and restore personnel to honorable service or prepare prisoners for return to civilian life as productive citizens. When directed, the brig also detains enemy combatants in accordance with guidance from the president via the secretary of defense.

NAVAL NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING COMMAND

The Naval Nuclear Power Training Command prepares safe and trusted naval nuclear operators ready for follow-on prototype training and, ultimately, service in the fleet. The command's Nuclear Field A School provides fundamental rate training for future nuclear machinist's mates, electrician's mates and electronic technicians. The command's Nuclear Power School trains officer and enlisted students in the science and engineering fundamental to the design, operation and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING UNIT

The Nuclear Power Training Unit is a technical school that trains enlisted sailors, officers, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory civilians and Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory civilians for shipboard nuclear power plant operation and maintenance of surface ships and submarines in the U.S. nuclear navy.

SPACE AND NAVAL WARFARE SYSTEMS CENTER ATLANTIC

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic meets the nation's demands for uninterrupted vigilance, fail-safe cybersecurity, adaptive response and engineering excellence by delivering secure, integrated and innovative solutions to many naval, joint and national agencies. Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic designs, acquires, engineers

and sustains the systems, sensor connections, cyber network infrastructures and knowledge management services to ensure reliable information is available to only those who need it, where and when it is needed.

841ST ARMY TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

The 841st Transportation Battalion's mission is to deploy and conduct surface deployment and redeployment distribution and water terminal operations to support and sustain the war fighter. The battalion is responsible for DOD cargo on commercial vessels from the port of Savannah, Georgia, to Maine along the Atlantic coast. The battalion conducts documentation support and port clearance and loads, unloads and onward-moves cargo that comes via the ocean and goes out via rail or truck. By doing so, the battalion helps missions around the globe to get critical supplies and equipment.

ARRIVAL

See the Getting To & Around Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties chapter on Page 26 for information about local airports, train service and public transportation. The closest commercial flights land at Charleston International Airport, which serves the tri-county area and is adjacent to Joint Base Charleston. There are no military shuttles or mass transit services from the airport to the base, although rental cars and taxi service are available at the airport.

SPONSORSHIP

Contact your sponsor with your estimated arrival time and flight information if applicable prior to your arrival at Joint Base Charleston.

Sponsorship is vital to the relocation process. Don't PCS without talking to your sponsor before departing for Joint Base Charleston. Your sponsor will answer any questions you have about the base and the local area, make lodging or dorm arrangements and meet you upon arrival. Your sponsor will be there to help you and your family until you are settled into your new community.

If you have not been in touch with a sponsor and your departure is nearing, contact your gaining unit or call the air base's Airman & Family Readiness Center at 843-963-4406 or the weapons station's Fleet & Family Support Center at 843-794-7480.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Cellphone use by the driver of a moving motor vehicle is prohibited on all Department of Defense installations unless the cellphone is used with a hands-free device.

To the Air Base

From the Charleston International Airport: Take the access road to Michaux Parkway and turn right. Proceed to the Dorchester Road intersection and turn right onto Dorchester Road. The main gate is about 1.5 miles on the right.

From Interstate 95: Take Interstate 26 east to Ashley Phosphate Road, Exit 209A. Turn right onto Ashley Phosphate Road, then left onto Cross County Road and go 2.2 miles. Then turn left onto Dorchester Road, go about a mile, and make a left on West Hill Boulevard.

To the Weapons Station

From Charleston International Airport: Exit the airport and get on Interstate 526 east, also known as Mark Clark Expressway. Take the North Rhett exit, turn left onto North Rhett



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS HELENA B. OWENS



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANDREA SALAZAR

and drive approximately 4.5 miles. Turn right onto Red Bank Road. The base is straight ahead.

From points south or north: Exit I-95 for I-26 east, then follow the “from points west” directions.

From points west: Exit I-26 to U.S. Route 78 (Exit 205). Travel east for about 4 miles and turn right onto Red Bank Road. The base is 3 miles ahead. After entering the weapons station, the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command will be 2 miles ahead on your left.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

The Inns of Charleston is the 24-hour arrival point for both the air base and the weapons station. Personnel arriving after normal duty hours or on a holiday or weekend should report there to sign in.

Air Base Check-in

Newcomers arriving on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. must report to their units prior to reporting to the Military Personnel Section Customer Support Section (Building 503, Room 112) for in-processing on the day of arrival. The following documents are required for in-processing at the MPS Customer Support Section: your in-processing package (a large sealed envelope), your in-processing worksheet (from your gaining unit) and a copy of your orders. The MPS Customer Support Section will work with your unit’s customer support section to schedule you for the Quick Start briefing. Quick Start is a mandatory in-processing appointment for all Air Force newcomers to Joint Base Charleston. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Newcomers arriving after normal duty hours or on a holiday or weekend must turn in their in-processing package at the MPS Customer Support Section on the next duty day after visiting their gaining unit following arrival. Your sponsor or unit CSS will assist you with completing the required paperwork relating to in-processing.

Weapons Station Check-in

Contact your gaining command to make arrangements for a sponsor to meet you for check-in during and after working hours. The weapons station’s quarterdeck is not manned 24/7.

The weapons station is primarily an open base with many facilities outside the gate. If you are unsure of where you should check in for your new command, call the base quarterdeck for guidance and ask for further assistance or directions from the guards at the gate. They can be reached 24 hours a day by calling 843-764-7901.

TEMPORARY LODGING

Inns of Charleston
Building 362,
202 Hill Blvd. 843-963-8000
www.jbcharleston.com/lodging/inns-of-charleston

On-base lodging is available at the Inns of Charleston on the air base. Make temporary lodging arrangements as soon as possible because of limited availability in the Charleston area; there is no Navy Lodge. If on-base lodging is not available, the lodging office will provide a list of off-base motels and hotels. Single members E-4 and below with fewer than three years’

active duty will be assigned a dormitory room upon arrival.

Pet-friendly temporary lodging facilities are available at the inn for an additional fee. Inn amenities include wireless internet, laundry facilities and a business center. For more information and current room rates, visit the inn’s website.

GETTING SETTLED
HEALTH CARE

628th Medical Group
Joint Base Charleston Clinic (Air Base)
204 W. Hill Blvd.
Appointments..... 843-963-6880
Pharmacy..... 843-963-6833

Naval Health Clinic Charleston (Weapons Station)
110 NNPTC Circle..... 843-794-6000
Appointments..... 843-794-6221

The 628th Medical Group serves Joint Base Charleston and beneficiaries in the surrounding area. The group provides a wealth of medical services, including dentistry, family health, flight medicine, immunizations, lab testing, mental health care, optometry, pediatrics, a pharmacy, physical therapy, radiology, women’s health and more.

The dental clinic serves active-duty military. Family members of active-duty personnel are encouraged to use the TRICARE Dental Program. Program information is available by visiting www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental/TDP.

TRICARE

TRICARE is the health care program for active-duty and retired service members, their families and survivors. TRICARE provides health plans, prescriptions, dental plans and other special health programs to its beneficiaries. TRICARE’s mission is to enhance the Department of Defense and the nation’s security by providing health support for the full range of military operations and sustaining the health of all those entrusted to their care.

TRICARE offers a range of health care plans. TRICARE Prime is the mandatory health care option for active-duty service members. Family members of active-duty service members, retired service members and their families may also use this option. If you use TRICARE Prime, you are assigned a primary care manager at a military or network provider who delivers most of your care. If you need care your PCM cannot provide, you are referred to a specialist. Active-duty service members and their families pay nothing out of pocket for this option; however, there is less freedom to choose your provider. On Jan. 1, 2018, TRICARE Standard and Extra were combined

into a new plan, TRICARE Select. Select is a standardized fee-for-service plan available to family members of active-duty service members, retired service members and their families. After you enroll in TRICARE Select, you may schedule an appointment with any TRICARE-authorized provider. Referrals are not required, but you may need prior authorization from your regional contractor for some services. You will pay a copay or cost share based on the type of care and provider you see. Costs for Select vary, but you will pay an annual deductible as well as a percentage of covered services. Non-network providers may charge up to 15 percent more than the TRICARE allowable charge; you are responsible for these extra charges. TRICARE also offers plans for remote and overseas locations, reserve military members, young adults who are no longer covered under regular TRICARE coverage and other scenarios.

TRICARE coverage is completely portable, so it moves with you when you relocate. Follow these simple steps to ensure you have no break in coverage when you move:

- Do not cancel your TRICARE Prime enrollment option before you move.
- Update your personal information in DEERS immediately when you arrive at your new location.
- Select a new primary care manager.

If you are already using TRICARE Select, moving is easy. When you arrive at your new location, update your personal information in DEERS. Then find TRICARE-authorized providers in your new area. Remember, you may have a new regional contractor and claims filing address.

TRICARE's online tools can help you find and compare plans that you are qualified to use. Beginning in 2019, however, TRICARE will allow you to switch between plans only if you have a "qualifying life event" such as the birth of a baby or a move. For a complete description of the types of coverage programs and regions, visit www.tricare.mil. For more information about recent changes to TRICARE, visit <https://tricare.mil/changes>.

HOUSING

Housing Management Office

Air Base

101 N. Davis Drive 843-963-3858

Weapons Station

2316 Red Bank Road, Suite 100 .. 843-794-7265

www.housing.af.mil/Units/

Joint-Base-Charleston

The Joint Base Charleston Housing Management Offices are ready to help you transition to your new home and community. Use the offices'

resources to become familiar with available housing options and support services. When you arrive at Joint Base Charleston, visit the HMOs for valuable information, counseling and guidance before signing any lease or sales contract for housing.

Unaccompanied Housing

Air Base

Building 464, Room 121,

312 Arthur Drive 843-963-7255

Weapons Station

Building 1484,

1 Mahan Circle 843-794-7646

www.housing.af.mil/Units/

Joint-Base-Charleston

In general, unaccompanied housing is provided for unaccompanied service members in the ranks of E-1 to E-3 and E-4 with fewer than three or four years of service. Each service member is provided a sleeping room, furnishings, bed linens and supplies required for comfortable living. For more information on the dorms at the air base and weapons station, contact the unaccompanied housing offices.

Family Housing

Air Base

1501 Touhey Blvd. 844-219-9093

www.jbcharlestonfamilyhousing.com

Weapons Station

Building 742,

Fletcher Street 843-797-5631

www.jbwsharlestonhomes.com

At Joint Base Charleston, military family housing is privatized. In addition to your option to purchase and rent housing in the local community, you may choose to live in privatized

housing by signing a tenant lease agreement with Hunt Military Communities at the air base or Balfour Beatty Communities at the weapons station, which owns the family housing and is responsible for constructing, maintaining, repairing and managing the community.

For comprehensive information about homes and amenities in the Joint Base Charleston privatized housing community, visit the family housing websites.

MAIL

Post Office

Cross County Branch

7075 Cross County Road

North Charleston, SC 29418 803-926-6354

North Charleston Branch

6401 Rivers Ave.

North Charleston, SC 29406 803-926-6354

These two full-service post office locations are near the air base and weapons station. For more post office locations, visit www.usps.com.

The temporary mailing address for Joint Base Charleston is:

Your rank and name

PSC 1 Box 8000

General Delivery

Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404

PETS

Veterinary Services

107 Scarton Lane 843-963-1738

www.fb.com/CharlestonVTF

The air base's veterinary treatment facility provides complete veterinary care for all government-owned animals. Many types of routine

Continued on Page 14



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS HELENA OWENS

Continued from Page 11
care services for the pets of military families are also offered by appointment only.

All pets living on base must be registered with the facility upon arrival. Base housing may limit the number and breed of pets; contact the family housing offices for more information.

Due to limited resources, most veterinary emergency cases are best served through a full-service civilian veterinary hospital; see the Military Buyer's Guide tab to connect with local veterinarians.

RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE

Air Base Chapel
107 Arthur Drive 843-963-2536
www.fb.com/jointbasecharlestonchapel

Weapons Station Chapel
707 Chapel Drive 843-794-7222
www.jbcharleston.jb.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Article/233009/chapel

Joint Base Charleston chaplains are dedicated to preserving your right to worship. They provide, or find a way to provide, for a broad spectrum of worshipers. If you are seeking spiritual support for any denomination or faith group, they will do their best to assist you.

The base chapels offer counseling and seminars for premarital, marital, religious, stress, grief and loss issues. All counseling sessions are covered by privileged communication. For current service times, visit the chapel websites.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

There is no longer a requirement to register your vehicles with Joint Base Charleston. All privately owned vehicles on base must be insured, and a current license plate is required.



South Carolina state traffic laws apply on base; see the Getting To & Around Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties chapter on Page 26 for more information. All vehicles entering or leaving base are subject to search.

SERVING YOU DINING

- Air Base**
Gaylor Dining Facility
Building 468,
211 N. Davis Drive 843-963-3590
- Globemaster Grill (Wrenwoods Golf Course)**
Building 601,
100 Cusabee Trail 843-963-1840

- Rookies Sports Grill (Charleston Club)**
Building 325,
100 W. Hill Blvd. 843-963-3922
- Snack Bar (Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center)**
Building 214,
106 W. McCaw St. 843-963-3316
- Starbucks (Charleston Club)**
Building 325, 100 W. Hill Blvd. ... 843-963-3914
- Weapons Station**
Dive Bar & Grill
Building 1680, Fletcher Street 843-794-4238
- Fairway Grill (Redbank Plantation Golf Course)**
Building 290,
West Old Tom Road..... 843-794-7828
- Galley**
Building 2409..... 843-794-8215
- Redbank Club**
Building 942,
2316 Red Bank Road 843-794-7797
- Snack Bar (Marrington Bowling Center)**
Building 784, Fletcher Street 843-794-7235
- For hours, menus and special event information, visit www.jbcharleston.com and click on selections under the "Dining" tab.

EDUCATION

Air Base Education Center
Building 221,
101 W. Hill Blvd. 843-963-4575
www.jbcharleston.com/education/education-center

The air base's education center supports active-duty members, reservists, National Guard



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS HELENA OWENS

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HUBENTHAL



personnel, dependents and civilians who are pursuing higher education degrees and certifications. The center also assists those attending the Community College of the Air Force and provides guidance on commissioning programs. Representatives from Park University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Southern Illinois University are available to discuss higher education opportunities.

Navy College Program

www.navycollege.navy.mil

The Navy College Program provides sailors with opportunities to earn college degrees through a variety of options. The program's mission is to provide continual academic support to sailors while they pursue a college degree, regardless of their location or duty station.

The Navy College Program is now fully virtual. Use the self-service Navy College Program website to access information about college education and other programs available to those in the Navy. The site can also help you connect with counselors who can help you explore your options and find what's best for you.

Professional Enhancement Center

www.jbcharleston.com/professional-enhancement-center

[professional-enhancement-center](http://www.jbcharleston.com/professional-enhancement-center)

The air base's Professional Enhancement Center is the focal point for basic enlisted career advice and all professional development. The center guides airmen, officers and civilians in their professional development by offering professional development courses in leadership, communication, team building and professional writing, as well as speech and math CLEP-prep classes. The center mentors individuals in their career paths to help them make informed career-based decisions.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Airman & Family Readiness Center

(Air Base)

Building 500,

104 E. Simpson St. 843-963-4406

Fleet & Family Support Center

(Weapons Station)

Building 755,

1005 Jefferson Ave. 843-794-7480

[www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/](http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/military-family-support-2)

[military-family-support-2](http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/military-family-support-2)

The Military & Family Support team is staffed at two centers: the Airman & Family Readiness

Center at the air base and the Fleet & Family Support Center at the weapons station. The centers are one-stop information and referral centers that are the cornerstone of the Joint Base Charleston family support system, helping service members and their families enhance their readiness and adapt to the Air Force and Navy way of life. Key programs and services include deployment support, relocation assistance, personal financial management, employment assistance, family life education, transition assistance, the Exceptional Family Member Program, the school liaison, casualty assistance, volunteering and more.

Child Development Centers

Air Base

Building 227,

1654 E. Jackson Drive 843-963-4366

Weapons Station

Building 1693,

201 Von Steuben St. 843-794-7408

[www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/](http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/ab-child-development-center)

[ab-child-development-center](http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/ab-child-development-center)

Joint Base Charleston child development centers are certified by the Department of Defense and are nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Each program strives to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age and promote the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of children. Training and curriculum specialists frequent classrooms to observe, mentor and provide support to staff to ensure they meet high standards

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HUBENTHAL



of quality care. Learning is promoted through hands-on opportunities and active play.

Eligible patrons include active-duty military personnel, DOD civilian employees, reservists on active duty or inactive duty training status, combat-related wounded warriors, surviving spouses of military members who died from a combat-related incident and eligible employees of DOD contractors. Fees are based on total family income. To request care, visit www.MilitaryChildCare.com.

Exceptional Family Member Program

Air Base

Building 500,

104 E. Simpson St. 843-963-4406

Weapons Station

Building 755,

1005 Jefferson Ave. 843-794-7480

www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/military-family-support-2

This program provides special-needs families with information and referral services.

Family Child Care

2373 White Circle 843-963-2546

www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/family-child-care

Family Child Care provides an alternative to child development center care for families that need evening or weekend care, care during swing and midnight shifts, or care for infants, school-age children or children with special needs.

The program also offers an opportunity for spouses to contribute to the family income while caring for their own children.

FCC providers are well-trained, they and their family members undergo a thorough background check and their homes are inspected for fire safety, health, safety and other requirements. In addition, their homes are monitored on a regular basis by the program staff.

Call or visit the air base's Family Child Care office for more information.

School Liaison

Air Base

Building 500,

104 E. Simpson St. 843-963-4406

Weapons Station

Building 755,

1005 Jefferson Ave. 843-794-7480

www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/military-family-support-2

The school liaison is the connection between Joint Base Charleston families and private and public schools. The liaison provides support to service members during all stages of transition



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/STAFF SGT. JARED TRIMARCH

and deployment to ensure children receive every opportunity for quality education.

Youth Programs

Air Base

Building 1993,

2451 N. O'Neal Ave. 843-963-5684

Weapons Station

Building 788, Chapel Drive 843-794-7809

www.jbcharleston.com/youth-family/youth-programs-2

Joint Base Charleston Youth Programs offer a variety of recreational, educational and sports programs for youth 5 to 18 years of age.

School Age Programs offer care before and after school and during school holidays, teacher in-service days and school vacations for elementary and middle school students. The program provides age-appropriate activities through the 4-H and Boys & Girls Clubs of America curricula. The program helps students build life skills, explore creative arts and develop healthy lifestyles. Transportation is offered at select schools in the North Charleston and Goose Creek area.

The Open Rec and Teen Program offers activities for preteens and teens. Activities include lock-ins, dances, field trips, health and fitness activities, college and career preparation, and leadership opportunities.

Sports programs for youth 4 to 12 years of age help children and youth develop the fundamental skills for each sport and instill sportsmanship qualities.

The Youth Sponsorship Program assists youth with transitioning to or from Joint Base Charleston, connecting students with a fellow student at their destination base.

Other programs include instructional classes for interests like martial arts and dance. For a full list of youth activities at Joint Base Charleston, visit the website.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Air Base

Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union

2375 White Circle 843-832-2700

www.heritagetrust.org

Weapons Station

Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union

309 N. Goose Creek Blvd. 843-820-6070

www.bayerhfcu.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Assistance

Air Base

102 E. Hill Blvd. 843-963-5502

Weapons Station

Building 84,

2316 Red Bank Road 843-963-5502

Legal services are provided to active-duty members, active Guard and reserve members, retirees and dependents. Civilian personnel and contractors who are deploying are eligible for wills and powers of attorney.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS T. CHARLTON

The legal offices can provide assistance with wills, powers of attorney and notarization. The offices can also advise service members on a variety of topics, including adoptions, divorce and separation, immigration, landlord-tenant issues, personal finances and debt, taxes and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil> to review basic information on legal assistance topics that commonly affect military members and to fill out online legal worksheets prior to a visit to the air base legal office for expedited service.

LIBRARY

Air Base

Building 215,
102 E. Hill Blvd. 843-963-3320

Weapons Station

Building 732,
2316 Red Bank Road 843-794-7900
www.jbcharleston.com/library

The Joint Base Charleston library is composed of two branches: the main air base branch and the weapons station branch. It offers a full range of services for all patrons.

RECREATION

For information about the recreational programs at Joint Base Charleston, visit the Joint Base Charleston Force Support Squadron online at www.jbcharleston.com.

Aquatics

Air Base 843-963-1672
www.jbcharlestonorc.com/pool

Weapons Station

Boone Avenue 843-794-4092
www.fb.com/jbcnewwavepool

The air base's pool is open Memorial Day weekend through mid-August for swim lessons, lap swim and community use. Visit the pool's webpage for information about hours, passes and more.

The weapons station's New Wave Pool is open Memorial Day through mid-August as well. The pool's programs include youth and adult swim lessons, lap swimming, special parties and more.

Amenities include two diving boards, a 35-foot slide, a climbing wall and hot showers. Families will also enjoy the baby pool and shaded break area with tables. For more information about passes and hours, visit the website.

Auto Skills Center

Weapons Station

776 Fletcher St. 843-794-7752
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/auto-skills-center

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or depend on the help of a skilled automotive professional for vehicle maintenance and repair, the Auto Skills Center has everything you need



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS HELENA OWENS

to make car problems things of the past. The center offers full computer diagnostic services, full automotive air conditioning services, wheel balancing, oil and filter changes, brake services, fuel systems cleaning, batteries and electrical systems checks, and more. Need a part that's not in stock? The center will order it and have it delivered.

Bowling Centers

Air Base

Building 214,
106 W. McCaw St. 843-963-3315
www.jbcharleston.com/dining-facilities/starlifter-lanes-bowling-center

Weapons Station

784 Fletcher St. 843-794-7235
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/marrington-bowling-center

Strike up some family-friendly fun at the air base's Starlifter Lanes or the weapons station's Marrington Bowling Center. The centers offer state-of-the-art lanes and scoring equipment, full-service pro shops, snack bars and bingo programs.

Fitness Centers

Air Base

Building 225,
205 W. Hill Blvd. 843-963-3347
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/fitness-sports-center

Weapons Station

Building 708,
244 Jefferson Ave. 843-794-4173
Red Bank Road,
next to officer housing 843-794-7102
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/ws-fitness-sports

The air base's Charleston Fitness and Sports Center offers the latest in exercise equipment and programs. The center has more than 100 pieces of cardiovascular exercise equipment, free weights, functional strength training areas, and outdoor softball, football, basketball and tennis facilities. Fitness classes are also available. The center has information about the intramural sports program and maps of base exercise trails as well.

Sam's Fitness Center at the weapons station features cardio equipment, selectorized weight machines, functional fitness equipment and free weights. The center has racquetball, wallyball, basketball and volleyball courts. Fitness classes and intramural sports programs are available.

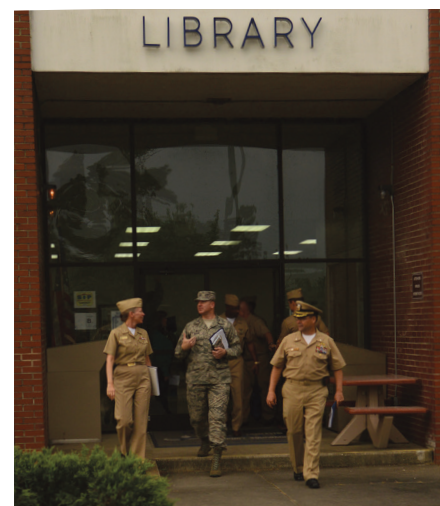
The weapons station also has a fully equipped satellite facility, the Eastside Wellness Center, on Red Bank Road. This facility includes free weight, selectorized and cardio equipment. The center offers 24-hour access after authorized enrollment.

Framing, Engraving and Gifts

Air Base

Building 647,
101 Scarton Lane 843-963-1936
www.jbcframeandengrave.com

Specialists in custom framing and engraving, the shop's trained and experienced staff will assist you in choosing the molding, matting and layout for your framed item. There are hundreds of frames and mat samples to choose from. Whether for retirements, going-away presents, wedding party gifts or other occasions, the shop can provide outstanding service at reasonable prices. Don't see what you want in stock? Bring in a picture or idea and they will work with you on the graphic design and layout



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS SEMI M. STAFFORD

of shadowboxes, glassware, specialty framing and more.

Golf Courses

Air Base

100 Kiawah Loop..... 843-963-1833

Weapons Station

Building 290,
West Old Tom Road..... 843-794-7828
www.jbcharlestongolf.com

Wrenwoods Golf Course is a world-class course sculpted from 200 acres within the gates of the air base. As both the namesake of the state bird as well as a nod to the many native Southern pines found throughout South Carolina, Wrenwoods supports an abundant wildlife population that provides the perfect backdrop for a serene golf setting. The course was designed by George Cobb in 1966, and remains true to his philosophy of "providing a good-time atmosphere."

At the weapons station, Redbank Plantation Golf Course is set amid the serenity of 125 acres of rolling, lush terrain. Huge oaks and bountiful wildlife surround you in this challenging course set within natural marshland.

Both courses offer clubhouses, grills, pro shops, PGA instruction, practice greens and leagues. Visit the website for information on fees, events and more.

Movie Theater

Weapons Station

Building 71,
Red Bank Road..... 843-794-2120
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/movie-theaters

The weapons station's Cinema One theater often features free movies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the year. The theater opens a half-hour before showtime and offers



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CHRISTIAN SULLIVAN



COURTESY PHOTO

concessions. Check the website for current movie listings.

Outdoor Recreation

Air Base

Building 647,

101 Scarton Lane 843-963-1672
www.jbcharlestonorc.com

Weapons Station

Building 1700,

1956 Fletcher St. 843-794-2120
www.jbcharleston.com/outdoor-adventure-center

The air base's Outdoor Recreation Center and the weapons station's Outdoor Adventure Center offer outdoor recreation programs, family camping and recreational lodging facilities, discount ticket services, equipment rentals and more. Equipment rentals at each center include camping gear, boating gear and other recreation items.

At the air base's center, get information about the base's skeet and trap range, paintball field, swimming pool and family camping. At the weapons station's center, hunting and fishing licenses and the required station permits are available for purchase. The center also has information on the station's Foster Creek Recreational Lodging as well as the Marrington Plantation and its stables, picnic pavilions and multiuse trail system.

For more information on the centers and their programs, visit the websites.

Single Service Member Programs

Air Base

Building 647,

101 Scarton Lane 843-963-1672
www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/single-airman-initiative-sai

Weapons Station

Building 2401 843-296-3942

www.jbcharleston.com/recreation/liberty-program

The Single Airman Initiative at the air base and the Liberty Program at the weapons station provides single and unaccompanied airmen and

sailors ages 18 to 25 off-duty programming and social activities. Free or reduced-priced programming offers high-adventure activities, like skydiving, zip lining, whitewater rafting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and jet skiing.

The weapons station also features the Liberty Lounge, a free recreational facility in the Bowman Center at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. The lounge features video games, pool and pingpong tables, computers with free internet access, a soundproof recording studio and more.

Tickets and Travel Services

Air Base

Building 647,

101 Scarton Lane 843-963-1672
www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets

Weapons Station

Building 1700,

1956 Fletcher St. 843-794-2122
www.jbcharleston.com/outdoor-adventure-center

Travel services are available in the air base's Outdoor Recreation Center and the weapons station's Outdoor Adventure Center. Get discount tickets to area attractions, as well as many attractions throughout the southeast, including Disney World and Universal Studios. Whatever travel destinations you seek, the travel staff can help you plan your trips with assistance with airline tickets, hotels, rental cars and even cruises.

SHOPPING COMMISSARIES

Air Base

Building 1991,

103 Lawson Drive 843-963-7469



PHOTO TAKEN BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JOSHUA R. MAUND



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ARMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS T. CHARLTON

Weapons Station

Building 764,

1797 Red Bank Road 843-794-2020
www.commissaries.com

Save your hard-earned dollars when shopping for groceries at the commissaries.

EXCHANGES

The exchanges want to be your first choice for shopping. They offer a price-match program that guarantees the lowest prices in town. Hours for services outside the main exchanges vary, so call or visit the website for detailed information.

Air Base

Building 1990,

101 Lawson Drive..... 843-552-5000
www.shopmyexchange.com

Food Court

Burger King..... 843-552-9415
 Charleys Philly Steaks 843-552-9415
 Subway..... 843-552-9415

Services

Alterations..... 843-760-6635
 Barbershop..... 843-552-4880
 Beauty Salon..... 843-552-0812
 GNC..... 843-552-0893
 Laundry and Dry Cleaners 843-408-0441
 Military Clothing Store..... 843-552-8606
 Mobile Center 843-297-8253
 Optical Shop..... 843-552-1139
 UPS Store..... 843-641-7002/7003

Other Air Base Facilities

Express, Building 1951..... 843-760-1557

Weapons Station

Building 706,

1765 Red Bank Road 843-794-7042
www.mynavyexchange.com

Services

Barbershop 843-794-7755
 Electronics..... 843-794-7042, ext. 26
 Flower Shop 843-794-7042, ext. 36
 Garden Shop..... 843-794-7042, ext. 40
 Jewelry and Fragrances.. 843-794-7042, ext. 31

Package Store..... 843-794-7042, ext. 30
 Personalized Services..... 843-794-7042, ext. 36
 Western Union..... 843-794-7042, ext. 36

Other Weapons Station Facilities

Autoport Retail, Building 724..... 843-794-7573
 Barbershop, NNPTC 843-794-7116
 Charleston Student Store,
 140 Fletcher St. 843-794-7735
 Gas Lanes, Building 348..... 775-426-2583
 Uniform Shop, Building 1700..... 843-794-2113

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

Launch Point for the Nation's Resolve

FAMULUS OMNIS - "SERVING ALL"

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4 locations covering 24,000 acres
and 22 miles along the Cooper River

1 of 12 DoD JOINT BASES

OUR MISSION

- AIRLIFT & AIRDROP
- MISSION WARFIGHTER SUPPORT
- TRAIN NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

- INTERAGENCY COOPERATION
- DEPLOYABLE LOGISTICS
- INSTALLATION SUPPORT

MOVES PEOPLE AND CARGO BY LAND, SEA, AIR

RAPID GLOBAL MOBILITY

48 C-17s

VALUED AT \$10.1 BILLION

TRAINE 200 C-17 CREW CHIEFS

3 LOCOMOTIVES
39 MILES OF RAIL

3 SEAPORTS

LOADS 6 SHIPS PER YEAR

4,200 NUCLEAR NAVY SAILORS PER YEAR

Additional information about JB Charleston can be found at www.jbcharleston.jb.mil

U.S. AIR FORCE GRAPHIC/ARMAN 1ST CLASS MEGAN MINOZ



Welcome

to Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S Lowcountry, a flat, dreamlike land of water and salt marshes, a history of pirates and plantations, a future where tourism, transportation and information technology are increasingly important, and a strategic spot where the military has been in some way part of almost every story.

The Atlantic Ocean and its beaches form the eastern border of the Lowcountry and its sea islands, among them Isle of Palms and Sullivan's, Folly, Morris, James, Kiawah, Seabrook and Edisto as well as Fort Sumter National Monument on its man-made mound guarding the entrance to Charleston Harbor. The Lowcountry's western reach ends at the "Fall Line," where upland rivers start their tumble from the higher Piedmont or Midland parts of the state to the Atlantic Coastal Plain to the southeast.

In 2017, Charleston County had a population of more than 401,000. The county is home to the city of Charleston, the county seat; North Charleston; the suburban community of Mount Pleasant; and Joint Base Charleston,

the congressionally mandated 2010 merger of Charleston Air Force Base and the naval weapons station. Berkeley County to the northeast had nearly 218,000 residents; its county seat is Moncks Corner. To the northwest, Dorchester County had just under 156,500 people; its largest town is Summerville with more than 50,000 residents.

This area was one of the first settled regions in the South, so all the counties are rich with historical and cultural attractions. In addition to beaches, open skies, serene natural settings, famed cuisine and the scent of the sea, there are archeological and Civil War sites, museums and parks. Outdoor activities abound, among them birding, fishing, swimming, boating, golfing, tennis, hiking and team sports.

Then there are shopping, dining and nightlife opportunities to explore. Annual events and festivals celebrate everything from the area's colorful history to music, like the world-renowned Spoleto Festival that fills what seems like every possible venue with opera, theater, dance and

chamber, symphonic, choral and jazz music. All showcase the region's vibrancy.

HISTORY

The counties' history begins back in 1663 when England's King Charles II granted a charter for Carolina lands to eight friends, the lord's proprietors, who had helped restore him to the throne. They divided their lands into four "proprietary counties." It was seven years, though, before their first settlement, Charles Town, was established on the west bank of the Ashley River and proclaimed the capital. That location proved difficult to defend from the Spanish, the French, pirates and Native Americans, and 10 years later Charles Town moved to the strategic peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers — or as locals put it, "where the Cooper and Ashley rivers come together to form the Atlantic Ocean."

By 1768, South Carolina had been divided into judicial districts similar to today's counties. In 1783, with repudiation of all things kingly

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Chamber of Commerce

Use the chambers' online membership directories to connect with local businesses as you settle into your new community.

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce

4500 Leeds Ave., Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-577-2510
www.charlestonchamber.org

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce

1004 Old Highway 52
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-761-8238
www.berkeleysc.org

Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce

402 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483 843-873-2931
www.greatersummerville.org

Government

Official state, county and city websites are valuable resources for newcomers because they provide information on the local government's boards and committees, public safety organizations, community social services and other helpful agencies. They also give up-to-date information on municipal contacts, local events and recreational opportunities.

For more information on your new home, visit:

State of South Carolina: www.sc.gov

Charleston County: www.charlestoncounty.org

Berkeley County: www.berkeleycountysc.gov

Dorchester County: www.dorchestercountysc.gov

City of Charleston: www.charleston-sc.gov

City of Goose Creek: www.cityofgoosecreek.com

City of North Charleston: www.northcharleston.org

Town of Moncks Corner:

www.monckscornersc.gov

Town of Mount Pleasant: www.tompsc.com

Town of Summerville: www.summervillesc.gov

News and Entertainment

Get a feel for your new community by tapping into its news and entertainment options online. From local news media or social media, you can get a better feel for the vibe of your new town from the comfort of your armchair at home.

Newspapers

- **The Berkeley Independent:**
www.berkeleyind.com

- **The Eagle-Record:** www.theeaglerecord.com

- **The Gazette:** www.ourgazette.com

- **The Post and Courier:**
www.postandcourier.com

- **The Summerville Journal Scene:**
www.journalscene.com

Television stations

- **ABC:** <https://abcnews4.com>
- **CBS:** www.live5news.com
- **FOX:** www.foxcharleston.com
- **NBC:** www.counton2.com
- **PBS:** <https://scetv.org>

Radio stations

- **WSCI 89.3 FM (public radio):**
www.southcarolinapublicradio.org
- **WCKN 92.5 FM (country):** www.kickin925.com
- **WWWZ 93.3 FM (R&B and hip-hop):**
www.z93jamz.com
- **WSCC 94.3 FM (news and talk):**
<https://943wsc.iheart.com>
- **WSSX 95.1 FM (Top 40):** www.95sx.com
- **WIWF 96.9 FM (country):** www.nashfm969.com
- **WALC 100.5 FM (Christian contemporary):**
www.hisradio.com/home/charleston
- **WEZL 103.5 FM (country):**
<https://wezl.iheart.com>
- **WRFQ 104.5 FM (classic rock):**
<https://q1045.iheart.com>

Tourism

Drop in and learn the lay of the land from local experts.

Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

423 King St.
Charleston, SC 29403 800-868-8118
www.charlestoncvb.com

Experience Mount Pleasant

100 Ann Edwards Lane
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843-884-8517
<https://experiencemountpleasant.com>

North Charleston Tourism Office

2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-740-5843
www.visitnorthcharleston.com

Summerville Visitor Center

402 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483 843-873-8535
www.visitsummerville.com

after the American Revolution, "Charles Town" became "Charleston."

Charleston County was created in 1800; Berkeley County was carved out of Charleston County in 1878 and Dorchester County in 1897, leaving Charleston County its present boundaries.

Charleston, population 134,875, is the oldest city in South Carolina and has cycled through riches and ruination in its long, eventful history. Two major wars have rolled over it, the American Revolution and the Civil War, and invading armies have occupied it. Pirates, among them Blackbeard, attacked, and so did the Spanish, the French and Native Americans. Fires have reduced whole sections of the community to smoking rubble. It is no stranger to hurricanes nor to storm surges (the county's highest point is just 20 feet above sea level), and the biggest earthquake ever to rock the East Coast, a 7.6 on the Richter scale, knocked down 14,000 chimneys and damaged almost every building on Aug. 31, 1886. At least 60 people died.

Early on, Charleston became a trade center, thanks to its natural deep-water port. Rice, indigo, cotton, tobacco, furs, deer hides, lumber and ships' necessities were the main exports.

The Civil War, touched off by Confederate forces firing on the federal Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, wrecked the vital port. Federal troops continued to occupy the state and made Port Royal to the south a Navy operating base and ship repair facility. In 1900, Sen. Ben Tillman, with strong support from Charlestonians, induced the Navy to move its operations from Port Royal to Charleston, and by 1902 the Charleston Navy Yard had been built. The military remains a core economic driver in Charleston.

North Charleston, population 110,861, a separate city since 1972, has long moved away from its 17th-century rice and indigo economy to take a place among South Carolina's major industrial and retail centers. Joint Base Charleston is there, as is Charleston International Airport, which shares runways with the Air Force. In 2009, Boeing chose North Charleston for its plant to build 787 Dreamliners; North Charleston is one of the few places in the world that manufacture the wide-body aircraft.

The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, a stunning cable-stayed eight-lane bridge spanning the Cooper River, links downtown Charleston to the suburban city of Mount Pleasant (population 86,668), first populated by English settlers in 1680 and a hotbed of secession prior to the Civil War. The Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley launched here to attack and sink the

USS Housatonic, part of the Union blockade of Charleston Harbor, though the crippled Hunley also sank on her way back to shore, drowning her entire eight-man crew. After the war ended, freed slaves developed the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Scanlonville, one of the first African-American communities in the area.

The Legislature established Berkeley County in 1882 with the county seat first at Mount Pleasant and then, after 1895, at Moncks Corner, population 10,933. Moncks Corner, which began as a trading post plus a few taverns and stores, preceded the county by 147 years; French Protestant Huguenots, fleeing torture and death in France, sought refuge in South Carolina, starting in the 1680s, and many of them wound up in Moncks Corner, which took its name from landowner Thomas Monck. New tracks laid through town in 1853 by the North East Railroad brought growth and prosperity, and the depot, now the visitor and cultural center, remained the town's social and commercial hub even after rail service ended after World War II.

Goose Creek (population 42,619), also in southern Berkeley County, was officially established in 1961, but the community is hundreds of years older than that; by the late 1600s, settlers known as the Goose Creek Men already held office in the colonial government. The joint base's naval weapons station has facilities in Goose Creek.

Congregationalists were the first settlers in Dorchester County in 1696, naming their community after their fondly remembered former home in Massachusetts; the name was appropriated by the county on its creation in 1897.

Summerville, population 50,388, is mostly in Dorchester County with a little spillover into Berkeley and Charleston counties. It's at a higher elevation than Charleston — 89 feet versus 20 feet — and wealthy Charleston residents used to spend summers here to escape the fevers,



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ARMAN MEGAN MUNOZ

insects and vermin closer to the swampy coast. It began as Pineland Village in 1785, right after the Revolutionary War, and took its current name in 1847. That same year it became the first U.S. city to forbid cutting down significant trees; anyone who did face a fine of \$25, a hefty amount at that time. The official town motto is "Sacra Pinus Esto," or "The Pine is Sacred."

SAFETY

State of South Carolina

Emergency Management.....803-737-8500
www.scemd.org

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division leads the state's emergency management program to minimize the loss of life and property from all hazardous events. It handles prevention of and responses to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, thunderstorms, droughts, hazardous material spills, terrorism and more. Visit the department's website for information on local hazards, emergency shelters and making an emergency plan for your family.

Charleston County

Emergency Management.....843-746-3800
www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management

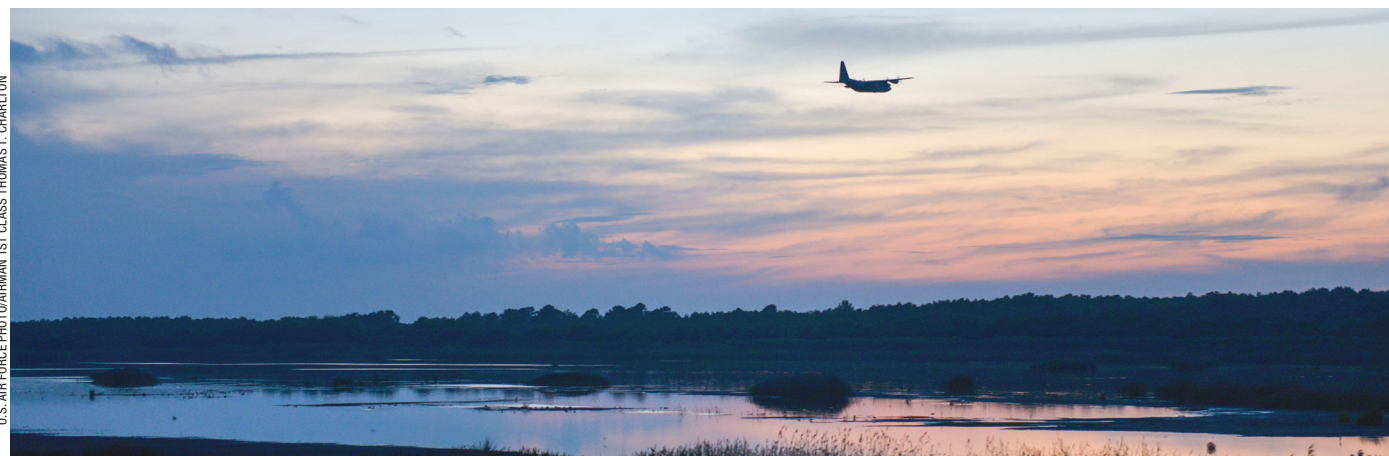
Charleston County's Emergency Management Department provides leadership and assistance to reduce the loss of life and property from a variety of man-made and natural hazards through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The department is responsible for emergency preparedness, homeland security, and hazardous materials planning and emergency response.

An EMD duty officer is on call 24/7 to provide assistance to fire, police and medical agencies that respond to emergencies throughout the county. Visit the department's website for preparedness information and resources.

Berkeley County

Emergency Preparedness.....843-723-3800
www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/dept/EPD

Berkeley County's Emergency Preparedness Department ensures the county is prepared for



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ARMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS T. CHARLTON



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/STAFF SGT. JARED TRIMARCH

any and all types of potential disasters. Visit the department's website for disaster preparedness information.

Dorchester County
Emergency Management..... 843-832-0341
www.dorchestercountysc.gov/government/emergency-services/emergency-management

Dorchester County's Emergency Management Department is responsible for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from natural or manmade disasters and managing the county Emergency Operations Center during activations. Visit the department's website for disaster preparedness information.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The warm, steamy Lowcountry gets most of its rainfall, and it gets a lot of rainfall, from storms moving inland from the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Summers are hot; temperatures can soar past 90 degrees, and high humidity turns the thermostat up from "hot" to "swelter." In Charleston, from June through August the average summer rainfall is nearly 17 inches, mostly from thunderstorms, though summer through early fall are also tropical storm and hurricane season. Winters are mild, with the temperature rarely dipping below

30 degrees. The warm season extends from late May to late September, with daily highs in the 80s. The cold season is from December to February, when the high rarely climbs above 60 degrees. The coldest days tend to be in early January. Snow is rare.

Local Hazards

Every second counts in a disaster so planning and preparation can be lifesavers.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, part of the Adjutant General's Office, is the state's coordinating agency responsible for the statewide emergency management program. Its mission is to develop, coordinate and lead preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters to save lives and minimize suffering and property loss. The division gives residents, communities, public safety professionals, businesses and schools valuable information and resources regarding a variety of emergency scenarios. The website provides information on creating an emergency plan and emergency kit, pet preparedness and disaster preparedness for children. For more information about local disaster preparedness, visit www.scemd.org.

Another great resource for natural disaster and severe weather information is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/disasters. Here you can find information on how to prepare for various weather emergencies.

The following are considered significant hazards in South Carolina.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are common in South Carolina — 10 to 15 occur every year thanks to the Middleton Place-Summerville Seismic Zone, but most are so slight people don't notice them. However, there have been two big ones: the 1886 Charleston-Summerville earthquake and another in Union County in 1913. The former did more damage than any other earthquake in the eastern U.S., and a 2001 study confirmed that the state remains vulnerable to earthquake activity. An earthquake gives no warning, but there are things you can do in advance to help get you, your family and your property through it. Go to www.scemd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/earthquakes to find out how.

Extreme Heat and Sun Exposure

Some exposure to sunlight is good, even healthy, but too much can be dangerous. Broad-spectrum ultraviolet radiation, listed as a known carcinogen by the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, can cause blistering sunburns as well as long-term problems like skin

cancer, cataracts and immune system suppression. Overexposure also causes wrinkling and premature aging of the skin.

Cloud cover reduces UV levels, but not completely. Depending on cloud cover thickness, you can still burn on a chilly, overcast day, so be prepared with sunglasses, sunscreen, long-sleeved garments, wide-brimmed hats and a parasol.

Because of the area's high temperatures, it is important to take precautions to avoid heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Stay indoors when temperatures are extreme. Drink cool liquids often, particularly water, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcoholic beverages as they dehydrate the body. Eat small, frequent meals and avoid foods high in protein, as they increase metabolic heat.

If you must venture outdoors, avoid going out during midday hours. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing to reflect sunlight. Avoid strenuous activities and keep hydrated. Cover all exposed skin with a high SPF sunscreen and follow general sun exposure precautions. Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.

Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating; weakness; cold, pale and clammy skin; a fast, weak pulse; nausea or vomiting; and fainting. If you experience symptoms of heat exhaustion, you should move to a cooler location. Lie down and loosen your clothing, then apply cool, wet cloths to your body. Sip water. If you have vomited and it continues, seek medical attention. You should seek out immediate medical attention if you experience symptoms of heat stroke, such as a body temperature of more than 103 degrees; hot, red, dry or moist skin; a rapid and strong pulse; or unconsciousness. For more information, visit www.scemd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/extreme-heat.

Floods

Because it is so flat, near sea level and laced with lazy rivers, streams, wetlands and swamps, the Lowcountry is at risk of flooding. Heavy rains can quickly fill rivers and streams past capacity and they will burst their bounds, with nothing to stop them. Coastal flooding from severe weather, such as a tropical storm or hurricane, sweeps inward from the sea with a combination of storm surge, wind, rain, erosion and battering debris. It is dangerous to underestimate the force and power of water.

During a flood watch or warning, gather your emergency supplies and stay tuned to local radio or TV stations for further weather information. If you are outdoors during a rainstorm, seek higher ground. Avoid walking through any floodwaters — even water 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. If you are driving, avoid

flooded areas. The majority of deaths in floods occur when people drive through flooded areas. Roads concealed by water may not be intact. Water only a foot deep can displace a vehicle. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water can engulf a vehicle and sweep it away.

For more on protecting yourself from flooding in South Carolina, go to www.scmd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/floods.

Hurricanes

South Carolina has six coastal counties fronting the Atlantic Ocean and is one of the states most susceptible to hurricanes and tropical storms. Densely populated low coastal areas, with thousands of tourists in peak seasons, greatly increase the state's vulnerability. Hurricane storm surge (high tidal waves) is the biggest threat to life and property, but heavy rainfall, high winds, tornadoes and inland flooding typically accompany these storms.

Make a hurricane plan in advance and make sure everyone in the household knows what it is. Be prepared. Once a powerful storm hits, it's too late to get ready. If you live in a mobile home, a high-rise, on the coast or a floodplain, near a river or inland waterway, or if local authorities order you to evacuate, do so without delay.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30. Visit www.scmd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/hurricanes for preparedness tips and help in creating a hurricane emergency plan.

Thunderstorms

While more likely at certain times of the year, thunderstorms can happen anytime. A severe thunderstorm can knock out power; bring high winds, lightning, flash floods and hail; and spin into a twister in seconds. Pay attention to storm warnings. Remember the rule: "When thunder roars, head indoors." The National Weather Service recommends following the 30/30 rule: People should seek shelter if the "flash-to-bang"

delay — the length of time in seconds from the sight of the lightning flash to the arrival of its subsequent thunder — is 30 seconds or less, and remain under cover for 30 minutes after the final thunderclap.

For more information, visit www.scmd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/thunderstorms.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can develop quickly, with minimal warning, so it is important to have a plan in place before they occur. If a tornado watch is issued, weather conditions favor the formation of tornadoes, such as during a severe thunderstorm. A tornado warning is issued when a tornado funnel is sighted or indicated by weather radar. You should take shelter immediately during a tornado warning.

For more information on tornado preparedness, go to www.scmd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/tornadoes.



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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ARIAN MEGAN MUNOZ

Getting To & Around

Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

SOUTH CAROLINA'S LOWCOUNTRY LINKS easily to other parts of the state and nation via numerous highways, and many people traveling here choose to drive, taking in the region's Deep South ambiance and historic atmosphere.

Charleston International Airport in North Charleston, a mere 5 miles from Joint Base Charleston's air base and 15 miles from the weapons station, is the region's commercial air hub for travelers. Charleston Executive Airport a few miles southwest of downtown Charleston on Johns Island serves general aviators.

All of the counties have public transportation and the area is served by Greyhound and Amtrak as well.

AIRPORTS

Charleston International Airport

5500 International Blvd., No. 101
North Charleston, SC 29418 843-767-7000
www.iflychs.com

Alaska, Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest and United flights arrive

and depart daily from busy Charleston International Airport. The airport recently finished a \$200 million expansion and renovation and is continuously enhancing its services.

Ground transportation includes taxis, shuttles, bus service and rental cars. Six rental car companies operate from the rental car pavilion near baggage claim, and two others off-site offer pickup service. The Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority has nonstop and express bus service between the airport and downtown Charleston; the bus stop is at the outside curb at the baggage claim end of the terminal.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

CARTA

3664 Leeds Ave.
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-724-7420
www.ridecarta.com

The Charleston metro area's public transportation system, Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority, provides fixed-route,

flex, express commute and paratransit services as well as free DASH shuttles within the city's historic peninsula. CARTA, the state's largest provider of public transportation, tallies more than 4 million rides every year. It is a partner in the Intermodal Facility Project, which aims to centralize Amtrak, CARTA and Southeastern Stages transportation facilities in one location so travelers can make seamless connections.

Visit CARTA's website for more information on bus routes, fares and the Intermodal Facility Project.

Charleston Water Taxi

10 Wharfside St.
Charleston, SC 29403 843-330-2989
www.charlestonwatertaxi.com

Skip over the water aboard the Charleston Water Taxi. Four routes showcase Waterfront Park and the historic district, Aquarium Wharf and the Maritime Center, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum (home of the USS Yorktown), and Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina and its tasty restaurants.



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Southeastern Stages

260 University Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30315 404-591-2750
<http://southeasternstages.com>

In 1933, three small bus companies merged to create Southeastern Stages, which today has daily scheduled service between Southeastern cities including Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia; Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Columbia and Summerville, South Carolina; and Fayetteville and Asheville, North Carolina. The company operates out of 12 locations in South Carolina, a dozen cities in Georgia and four in North Carolina. The company has more than 40 modern buses and was one of the first regional carriers to introduce vehicles with advanced collision avoidance technology.

TriCounty Link

305 Heatley St.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-899-4096
<http://ridetricountylink.com>

TriCounty Link provides transit services to rural residents in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. TriCounty Link's fleet provides fixed and commuter routes with route deviation options to pick up customers that cannot meet the bus at designated stop locations. For more information on routes and fares, visit TriCounty Link's website.

DRIVING AND COMMUTING

Lowcountry residents have been busily laying down roads since their arrival in 1670, so by now the region is spiderwebbed with interstates, U.S. and state highways, county roads and municipal streets.

Interstate 26 has the fast track northwest, intersecting with north-south I-95 approximately 30 miles out of North Charleston. I-26 begins in the heart of downtown Charleston at U.S. Highway 17 and heads northwest through North Charleston past Hanahan, Goose Creek and Summerville on its way to a brief whirl through the "Malfunction Junction" cloverleaf in state capital Columbia, then continues northwest across North Carolina and Tennessee to just south of the Tennessee-Virginia state line. Back in Charleston, I-526 is a horseshoe bypass that begins and ends at different ends of U.S. 17; I-526 Business, the bypass's eastern end, crosses the Wando River and winds up in Berkeley County's Mount Pleasant.

North-south U.S. 17 enters South Carolina from Georgia, northeast of Savannah, then the main highway runs vaguely parallel to the coast to cross the Edisto River into Charleston County, where it becomes a four-lane through Charleston until it exits the state near Calabash, North Carolina, on the Atlantic. Locally, U.S. 17 reaches the northern part of the Charleston peninsula by way of the Ashley River drawbridges, then crosses the Cooper River via the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. It leaves the area via Mount Pleasant and numerous red lights before slipping quietly into the Francis Marion National Forest and continuing northeast.

U.S. 52 is a northwest-southeast highway, passing from the U.S. into Canada at Portal, North Dakota, and ending its drop eastward at Charleston Harbor by way of Moncks Corner, Goose Creek and North Charleston. U.S. 78 goes west to east from Memphis to Charleston; it comes into South Carolina at Augusta, Georgia,

then continues east, passing through Dorchester County as far as I-26, which it parallels into downtown Charleston.

Several state highways help carry Charleston-area traffic, including state routes 7, 30, 61, 171 and 700.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation provides free, real-time traffic information. Registered users can also create a personalized profile to receive text or email updates about incidents on their specified routes at www.511sc.org.

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

www.scdmvonline.com

Driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle registration and other driving-related services are provided by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. The department has several offices in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties; visit www.scdmvonline.com/Locations to find a location near you. Find many of the required forms and general information at www.scdmvonline.com/Forms-And-Manuals.

Driver's Licenses

Military personnel and their spouses who are stationed in South Carolina from elsewhere may continue to drive with a valid driver's license from their home state, but in general, all South Carolina residents who want to drive must apply for a driver's license once residency is established.

The state spells out what is required for licensing under various scenarios in its South Carolina Driver's Manual, which can be found at www.scdmvonline.com/Forms-And-Manuals.

Vehicle Registration

Information associated with driving and vehicle registration is available online at www.scdmvonline.com, including DMV forms, requests for driving records and more.

Military members and veterans may be entitled to certain DMV exemptions and allowances. For more information on military and veteran exceptions and requirements, visit www.scdmvonline.com.

In general, those who purchase a new or used vehicle or move to South Carolina from another state must apply for a new vehicle title and registration. For more information, visit www.scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Moving-To-SC.

Distracted Driving

South Carolina does not prohibit drivers from making calls on handheld wireless telephones while operating a motor vehicle, though some communities do. Texting while driving is banned statewide.

South Carolina Department of Transportation

www.scdot.org

Motorists can find up-to-date information about road closures and conditions, travel advisories, construction projects and evacuation routes on the department's website.



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10 STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE DRIVING

Since you cannot control the actions of other drivers, you must rely on your skills and experience. Following these 10 rules will ensure a safe and courteous journey.

1. **Be prepared:** Know where you are going before you start. Be well-informed about weather and road conditions or traffic activity on your route. For longer trips, include a rest stop every two hours, sooner if you are tired. Pack an emergency rations kit of water and nonperishable food items such as energy bars.
2. **Always wear your seat belt:** Seat belts keep you in control and ready to react to a hazardous situation. Everyone should wear a seatbelt while in the vehicle.
3. **Put the phone down:** A mobile phone is great for roadside emergencies, but using a phone while you drive drastically reduces your reaction time to all situations. Minimize distractions by concentrating on the road, not objects, people or events inside your vehicle.
4. **Know your surroundings:** Scan the roadway continually for hazards. Keep your eyes moving, looking from one side to the other. Know what is happening well in front of you; watch for brake lights. Use the mirrors to keep an eye on traffic beside and behind you.
5. **Share the road:** Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, vehicles of varying sizes, as well as drivers of various ages and skill levels, all have a right to use the road. Slow down and give others time and space to proceed safely. Treat them like dear friends — they are to someone.
6. **Signal your intentions:** Be predictable and courteous and signal your intentions so other road users know what you plan to do next. Use your horn or headlights, if necessary.
7. **Watch your speed:** Posted maximum speeds are for ideal driving conditions. Adjust your speed for traffic, road and visibility conditions or when not operating at your best. Higher speeds magnify errors and decrease response times. It helps to maintain a large “safety cushion” around your vehicle to change lanes safely and to take evasive action in emergencies.
8. **Maintain your vehicle:** Read your owner's manual and follow the recommended schedule for maintenance service. Routinely check tires, brakes, lights, wipers and fluid levels. Pack a flashlight, blanket and first-aid kit. In cold climates, pack extra warm clothing. Carry a mobile phone for emergencies.
9. **Move your disabled vehicle:** If your car breaks down, move it off the road away from traffic, if possible. Warn other drivers by raising the vehicle's hood or using your hazard lights, then stay inside and ask passersby to call the police. If you are unable to move the car out of traffic, get all passengers to exit the vehicle and move to the side of the road when safe. If you must walk to a phone, keep your group together.
10. **Don't drive while impaired:** Never drive while under the influence of alcohol, prescription or street drugs, or over-the-counter medications that make you drowsy. Not only will you put yourself and your passengers in danger, but a traffic violation of this nature can seriously derail a military career. Don't be a driver if you think you are going to drink. Road rage and normal fatigue can also impair your response time. Be calm, well-rested, alert and attentive any time you get behind the wheel.



Housing & Real Estate

in ~~Charleston~~ Berkeley and Dorchester counties

THE WEAPONS STATION'S JBWS Charleston Homes, professionally managed by Balfour Beatty Communities, offers a wealth of benefits that are hard to match beyond the gates. With exclusive amenities and 24/7 management and maintenance services, you'll discover what it means to be "home." JBWS Charleston Homes welcomes you Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (extended hours to 7 p.m. on Wednesday), Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Your new home is waiting — contact 843-797-5631 or visit online at www.jbwscharlestonhomes.com today to schedule a tour.

The air base's JBC Family Housing, professionally managed by Hunt Military Communities, also offers a wealth of benefits. Walkable, quiet neighborhoods are close to parks, tot lots, a child development center and more. Other amenities include 24/7 maintenance services and free utilities. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 843-552-0600 or visit www.jbcharlestonfamilyhousing.com.

The combination of a lower cost of living and abundant natural and cultural amenities in the Lowcountry counties contribute to a quality of life not often found elsewhere. In 2017, more than 400,000 people called Charleston County home, while nearly 218,000 resided in Berkeley County and 156,000 in Dorchester County, the U.S. Census Bureau says. Population density in Charleston County was 382.3 people per square mile, 161.8 in Berkeley County and 238.2 in Dorchester County.

Joint Base Charleston, in Charleston County, is one of 12 Department of Defense joint bases and hosts more than 60 DOD and federal agencies. The joint base serves 90,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian personnel, family members and retirees. Many members of the base's military workforce choose to live off base and rent or buy in the local area.

The counties' communities give newcomers plenty of choices when selecting a home. Enlist the help of a reputable real estate agent to help you sort through the area's home options. The Charleston

Trident Association of Realtors is a central source of local real estate information and assistance. Those interested in purchasing a new home can find the expertise and professional services they need at www.charlestonrealtors.com. The state organization, the South Carolina Association of Realtors, can be found at www.screaltors.org.

CHARLESTON COUNTY

From the Santee River on the north to the black-water Edisto to the south, Charleston County covers a little over 1,358 square miles of land and water combined, or 916 square miles of land and 442 square miles of water. It is the biggest county in South Carolina when land and water are taken together. The county sits at about the midpoint along South Carolina's Atlantic coastline on a fine deep-water natural harbor scoured out by the juncture of the Ashley and Cooper rivers (with boosts from the Back, Stono and Wando tidewater rivers upstream) and has been a trade, commercial and cultural center since the late 1600s. A chain of islands guards the coastline.



©ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/REG NICHOLAS

Aside from thriving business ventures supported by the port, until World War I, Charleston County's economy was basically agricultural, with crops suited to hot, wet conditions. The military has played a role from the times of raids by pirates, the French and the Spanish, to the Revolutionary War and British occupation, to punishing federal control after the Civil War, to an increasing presence from World War I to the present. These days the overall economy has been diversified by tourism, health care and manufacturing.

The land itself is basically flat, from sea level where the swampy coast kisses the Atlantic to a rise of only a little over 80 feet near Lincolnville, in the county's northeast. The state's signature palmetto trees that fringe the coast give way inland to pine, oak and cypress, and miles of sandy beaches lure locals, tourists and seabirds alike.

Berkeley County lies to the northeast and Dorchester County to the northwest. For more information, check out the website for the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, established in 1773, at www.charlestonchamber.org.

Communities in Charleston County near Joint Base Charleston include Charleston, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant.

Charleston

www.charleston-sc.gov

English and Welsh settlers answered the call and promise of England's eight Lords Proprietors in 1670 to come to their New World lands and colonize the west bank of the Ashley River; they called it "Charles Town" after their monarch, Charles II, who had awarded the lands to the eight lords. That spot proved inhospitable — near-impossible to defend and a deathbed of miasmas and fevers — and the survivors shifted their hopes to a nearby peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers, a

location with sea breezes and a natural deep-water port protected by barrier islands.

The settlement prospered to the point of riches thanks to seagoing commerce, trade in fur and deerskins, and its plantation crops of rice, indigo and cotton.

The Civil War left the city and region in ruins and occupied by federal forces. There was no money for new buildings so residents bootstrapped their way to repairing and restoring the old ones, making Charleston today, ironically, one of the most historically significant and picturesque of cities and a magnet for tourists. Also worth noting: In 1925, a new dance from the city's bars and dancehalls spread nationwide — the Charleston.

Charleston's former dependence on agriculture has been replaced by increased military activity, port traffic, growth in the medical sector and evermore visitors. Some 6.9 million visitors came to the greater Charleston area in 2017, which had an economic impact of \$7.37 billion.

Waterfront Park is the pride of Charleston. The 8-acre park and pier borders the harbor entrance with fountains, lawns, gardens, a walking and jogging path, and a pier with picnic tables and wooden swings. It's among 120 city parks that encompass about 1,809 acres of parks and open space. The city also maintains recreation centers, community centers, playgrounds and pools.

Charleston's six distinct areas are the Peninsula/Downtown, West Ashley, Johns Island, James Island, Daniel Island and the Cainhoy Peninsula. The Old City occupies the original low-lying peninsula. West Ashley, James Island and part of Johns Island to the southwest, across the Ashley River, are part of the city, which has also expanded east across the Cooper River to take in Daniel Island and the Cainhoy Peninsula.

Its nearly 135,000 residents on just under 109 square miles make it the second-largest city in the state.

Housing prices vary widely depending on location, age and degree of restoration (Charleston takes its history seriously; buildings and locations are priced accordingly). According to the U.S. Census, median rent is \$1,052 and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,695. Mean travel time to work for those living in Charleston is 21.9 minutes.

Several colleges and universities call Charleston home, among them The Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina; Charleston School of Law; College of Charleston; and the Medical University of South Carolina.

North Charleston

www.northcharleston.org

North Charleston owes its existence to Charleston's geography and the fact that its own location has been a commercial corridor since Tidewater Indians carried their trading goods to and fro on their Broad Path along the Ashley River.

As it turns out, the Ashley and Cooper rivers that created Charleston also constrained its growth, and by the early 20th century Charleston business leaders were mulling where they could put more industrial, military and other business ventures. They settled on land north of town, where railroad tracks had been laid in the 1800s and farming, timber and phosphate mining were longtime mainstays. The oldest neighborhood in North Charleston, Liberty Hill, was established around 1864 by freed slaves. Charleston Naval Shipyard came in 1901, followed by the General Asbestos and Rubber Co., which constructed what was then the world's largest asbestos mill under a single roof.

As industry thrived, developers saw the need for worker housing and in 1914 started building on logged-out timberland; the first residents of what was beginning to be called "North Charleston" moved in that same year.

Civic leaders who struggled unsuccessfully to incorporate three times finally succeeded in 1972 by creating a "seed city" of four precincts whose voters wanted to incorporate. Over time, that seed city annexed the rest of the north area — including the naval base, the Air Force base and Charleston International Airport — to become, by December 1972, the fourth-largest city in the state.

Today, North Charleston is the region's shopping hub and at more than \$6 billion annually, leads the state in retail sales.

The city is dotted with parks, green spaces and waterways, including Riverfront Park with its meadow, magnificent oak trees, Cooper River

vistas and Performance Pavilion; the Park Circle Butterfly Garden; and four public pools.

North Charleston lies directly north and east of Charleston and surrounds Joint Base Charleston. The city's 73.19 square miles are home to nearly 111,000 residents; it is now the third-largest city in South Carolina.

Homes in the area range from well-established neighborhoods to brand-new housing developments. Median rent is \$909 and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,283. Mean travel time to work for those living in North Charleston is 22.8 minutes.

Charleston Southern University and Trident Technical College are institutions of higher education in North Charleston.

Mount Pleasant

www.tompssc.com

The site of Mount Pleasant was originally occupied by the Sewee people. The first settlers arrived from England on July 6, 1680, under the leadership of Capt. Florentia O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan had been granted 2,340 acres, which included not only the island that bears his name, but also the land that was to become Mount Pleasant.

Strong tidal flows in Shem Creek were producing power to run rice and sawmills, small factories (including a bucket factory), modest shipyards and canneries by 1705, and more lands for plantations were cleared and planted. The King's Highway from Virginia curved down the Carolina coast and through Mount Pleasant, one of the first coastal colonial post roads for mail delivery, and George Washington used it to visit Mount Pleasant during a Southern tour in 1791.

After the Civil War, by 1872, five small settlements along Charleston Harbor incorporated as the town of Mount Pleasant, fixing the boundaries as Shem Creek, Simmons Street, Cove Inlet and Charleston Harbor. Ferries connected Mount Pleasant to Charleston until the Grace Memorial Bridge spanning the Cooper River opened in 1929. Drivers complained that the bridge's steep inclines, dip and sharp midway curve were like riding a giant roller coaster. A new three-lane bridge, the Pearman Bridge, minus the dips and curves, opened next to the old bridge in 1966, and the first vehicles crossed on the eight-lane Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge on July 16, 2005.

With new bridges easing connections between Mount Pleasant and Charleston, Mount Pleasant evolved into a comfortable suburban community. The Census counts nearly 87,000 people within the city limits that bound a little over 45 square miles. The mean travel time to work for those who live in Mount Pleasant is 22.2 minutes. Median rent in the city is \$1,403, and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,996.



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On Oct. 13, 1975, the 200th birthday of the U.S. Navy, the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum opened on Mount Pleasant's Hog Island with its signature attraction, the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown.

BERKELEY COUNTY

Berkeley County's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't pedigree began in 1682 as Berkeley District under the British Lords Proprietors John and William Berkeley. The brothers offered English settlers attractive inducements like large land grants and religious toleration (except for atheists) to attract colonists to defend the Carolinas against Spanish attacks from Florida. The district was absorbed into the Charleston District from 1769 until 1882, when the post-Civil War Legislature resurrected it as Berkeley County.

Berkeley County covers almost 1,099 square miles. Moncks Corner, the county seat, and Goose Creek are the principal communities close to Joint Base Charleston. For more information, go to www.berkeleycountysc.gov or www.visitberkeleycounty.com.

Moncks Corner

www.monckscornersc.gov

Moncks Corner's possible paternity is subject to dispute. Early records say it carries the name of one of the original eight Lords Proprietors, George Monck, First Duke of Albemarle, but others credit Thomas Monck, an early local landowner, for the moniker. Whatever the naming rights, the actual community had its birth around 1728 in a scattering of taverns, shops and a trading

post. French Huguenots fleeing religious persecution were among the first settlers, and the Revolutionary War hero, Swamp Fox Francis Marion, whose hit-and-run guerillas made life so entertaining, and brief, for by-the-book British forces, was born near here. The Northeastern Railroad came through town right before the Civil War, in 1856, and the town reorganized itself around the train depot, which remains vital to the community in its post-train employment as a visitor's center and gift shop.

The town was chartered Dec. 26, 1885, and incorporated itself Dec. 15, 1909. It has nearly 11,000 people on 7.29 square miles within the city limits. Median rent is \$812, and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,265. Mean travel time to work is 24.3 minutes, and Joint Base Charleston is 24 miles south.

Goose Creek

www.cityofgoosecreek.com

The city of Goose Creek butts up against North Charleston on its northeast side and may be named after the "gooseneck" turns in its nearby creek, a twisty tributary of the Cooper River, or, alternately, for the many geese paddling its waters. It was occupied early, by 1782, mostly by British and Welsh settlers who came after a stopover in Barbados and set down roots pell-mell in a way that defied the Lords Proprietors' conventional intentions. By 1715, Goose Creek had become so incensed over the Lords Proprietors' failure to defend them against Native American attacks that they begged the British government to make them a royal colony instead. The Crown

agreed and took the community under the wing of British troops.

Large plantations sprang up, each dependent on slaves to raise its rice, indigo and other crops in the swampy fields. As wealthy, experienced landholders, Goose Creek residents edged to the forefront of Colonial government and, frustrated by what they saw as mistreatment by the mother country, supported the Revolution wholeheartedly.

The Civil War was a death knell for Goose Creek. Slavery ended, and with it, the planters' wealth. By the late 1800s, most of the luxurious plantations were abandoned and desolate.

World War II changed all that. The military needed land to expand from the Charleston area, and began to invest in and occupy Goose Creek, with commercial interests and housing subdivisions in tow. The population boomed and infrastructure such as roads and fire and police service and sanitation facilities buckled under the onslaught. In 1961, civic leaders incorporated Goose Creek in an effort to address the situation. The pressure didn't ease. In 1978, the city reorganized and the city council drafted a plan to provide efficient, cost-effective city services. Today, most of the joint base's naval weapons station is in Goose Creek, which is 17 miles from Charleston.

Residents enjoy more than a dozen parks, a municipal swimming pool, tennis courts, and sports fields and leagues. Crowfield Golf Club is an 18-hole public golf course that wraps around the ruins of Crowfield Plantation, which dates from 1701.

According to the Census, the city's 40 square miles are home to nearly 43,000 people. Median rent is \$1,144, and median selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,270. It takes an average of 24.2 minutes to get to work every day.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Dorchester wasn't originally a county at all. Rather, it was the name chosen in 1696 by a group of Congregationalists for their new settlement on the Ashley River in fond memory of their former home, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Though by 1788 their townsite had been abandoned, locals continued to call it "St. George, Dorchester" after the old Anglican parish, names that lived on when the Legislature carved out Dorchester County from Colleton and Berkeley counties in 1897. St. George became the county seat.

The county seal centers on the old bell tower of St. George's Anglican Church, the only remaining architectural feature from the colonial town. Both the Edisto and Ashley rivers flow through the county, and the Ashley's headwaters are there. Lumbering, cattle raising and crop production



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have underwritten the county's economy since its beginning.

Dorchester County's 573 square miles have Berkeley County to the east, Charleston County to the southeast and Colleton County to the southwest. Principal municipalities are St. George, Summerville and part of North Charleston.

For more information, go to www.dorchestercountysc.gov.

Summerville

www.summervillesc.gov

Since 1980, Summerville has become a popular bedroom community for the Charleston area. For much of its history its population hovered at around 3,000, but today approximately 50,000 people live within its 18 square miles. Median rent is \$1,027, and median selected monthly costs for housing units with a mortgage are \$1,449. The average work commute is 28.5 minutes.

Even early on, it was a desirable location. By the late 1700s, Lowcountry dwellers rich enough to do so were fleeing the summer coastal swelter, mosquitoes and fevers for higher, healthier elevations like Summerville's pine-clad ridge.

The railroad's arrival in the early 1800s prompted the village to incorporate. Railroad workers cut down hundreds of trees to lay rails and clear lots to shift the commercial center closer to their tracks. As the town saw it, the potential blessing of more summer visitors was being threatened by loss of its signature trees. To protect its future, Summerville declared itself an official town in 1847 and passed a law that made it a crime to cut down trees of a certain size without permission. That ordinance is still on the books.

Summerville was just starting to recover from the Civil War when the 1886 Charleston earthquake shook much of the town to pieces, followed

by a downtown fire that destroyed most buildings on the town square. The outlook was bleak.

But then the International Congress of Physicians meeting in Paris declared little pine-scented Summerville as one of the two best places in the world to recover from lung disorders; its pines' turpentine odor was believed to have cleansing, healing powers. The rush was on to build inns and hotels for sudden masses of health-seekers, many of whom built winter homes there, or simply stayed year-round.

Today, Summerville is known as the "Flower Town in the Pines." Every spring as blooms peak, Summerville hosts the Flowertown Festival, one of the biggest arts and crafts celebrations in the Southeast. More than 200 artists and craftspeople participate, and it benefits the local YMCA.

The area was among the first in the U.S. to cultivate tea plants. Summerville lays claim to being the birthplace of that Southern classic, sweet tea, though this is hotly disputed.

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

Relocating to a new home can be one of the most stressful situations in life. Whether moving across town or the nation, preparation and organization make all the difference.

For military moves, visit www.move.mil for information about moving resources and to learn about the allowances and responsibilities of a military-sponsored move.

Decide whether to make your move a do-it-yourself operation.

For a DIY move, consider distance, labor help and the costs of renting the moving van, gas, lodging during the move and insurance. A transportable storage unit can bridge a professional and DIY move. When the unit is delivered to your

residence, you load and secure it for transport and then unload it at your new residence.

Whatever the method, be sure to obtain as many quotes as possible from professional movers, as well as cost estimates for a DIY move. Next, compare the costs for each type of move, factoring in the stress and physical exertion involved. Ask any company you are interested in for references and use them to inquire about reliability and customer service.

Regardless of which method you choose, the first step should be to inventory your personal belongings. The list, with photographs of any valuables, will be important for both insurance purposes and to help keep you organized during transit.

Plan for one full day to pack each room — though the kitchen and garage may take longer. Make a rough estimate of your packing schedule and then add 50 percent more time. It always takes longer than predicted to pack. Toss or donate unused items to lighten your load. Visit www.goodwill.org, www.salvationarmyusa.org or www.clothingdonations.org for locations near you or to arrange a pickup.

Pack for success:

- Consider what you are packing and control box weight. Books should go in small boxes while bedding can easily fill a larger box.
- Wrap fragile items with cardboard dividers, tissue paper or air bubble wrapping.
- Use bright colors when wrapping small items so they don't get thrown out accidentally.
- Use crumpled paper or newspaper to line the top and bottom of boxes.
- Tape a copy of your inventory list to boxes to identify what's inside and where it should go.

BUYING VERSUS RENTING

The decision to buy or rent is the most important step in your relocation process. Purchasing a home entails a long-term financial and emotional commitment with various pluses and minuses. Advantages include the possibility of building equity and the freedom to design and decorate your property or landscape. And don't forget the tax benefits. Disadvantages include upkeep, property taxes and fluctuating property values.

Renting, on the other hand, makes moving easier and someone else maintains the property. Amenities such as laundry rooms, exercise rooms, swimming pools and tennis courts vary from one rental complex to another. The main disadvantage is a loss of control over the residence. Some complexes, for example, restrict or prohibit pets and personal touches such as painting. And the landlord or property managers can also raise the rent with proper notice.

To determine your best choice, account for all of your needs, review your financial situation and research your options thoroughly.

FINDING AN APARTMENT

Be prepared when you meet with the leasing agent, property manager or owner. Bring a list of what you are looking for in a rental; it is important to be clear about your needs and to get all of your questions answered. You will also need to provide information and verification about your job, your income and your past rental history. Dress to make a good impression and treat the meeting like a job interview — be polite and arrive on time.

Before you sign a lease, inspect the apartment with the landlord. Look for the following problems:

- Cracks, holes or damage in the floor, walls or ceiling.
- Signs of leaking water, leaky fixtures or water damage.
- Any signs of mold or pests.
- Lack of hot water.
- Inadequate heating or air conditioning.

Use a written checklist with the landlord to document the condition of the rental before you move in, and keep a copy of the completed checklist to use when you move out.

Information on local tenant rights, laws and protections for South Carolina can be found at www.hud.gov/states/south_carolina/renting/tenantrights.

BUYING A HOME

Buying a home is a complex process and, as the recent housing crisis demonstrated, requires a thorough education on the part of the buyer. First, fully understand your financial position — credit score, available savings, monthly income and expenditures. Subtracting your expenditures from your income, for instance, will yield the amount you can afford for housing.

Cost Analysis

Be sure to account for all insurance costs associated with owning a home, possible homeowner association fees and property taxes in your monthly expenditures. Overall, loan rules changed in 2015, but according to www.ginniemae.gov (Government National Mortgage Association) and www.homebuyinginstitute.com (the Home Buying Institute) loan programs continue to vary on the percentage of your income that can be used for housing-related expenses. Lenders balance debt against income to decide if an applicant will be able to repay a loan. Most conventional loans require borrowers to have no more than 43 percent total monthly debt versus their total

monthly income, though there are exceptions, such as for those with significant savings. The Federal Housing Administration has a two-tier qualifying system: FHA sets its top thresholds at 31 percent front-end debt (housing expenses as a percentage of income) and 43 percent back-end debt (all debt as a percentage of income) for a 31/43 qualifying ratio. Like commercial lenders, Veterans Affairs combines front-end and back-end debt for a 41 percent limit against income.

Next, research the different types of home loans to determine the right fit for your financial situation and discuss your options with a lending professional. Lenders are diverse today, and not all homebuyers obtain their mortgage loans through their banks and credit unions. For example, you may choose to work with an internet lender, a mortgage broker, a homebuilder or a real estate agency lender. To determine which lender is best for you, get recommendations from friends and family members and check credentials as well as Better Business Bureau ratings.

Credit Report

A preapproved loan before starting your search for a home can determine your spending limits and signal any potential issues in the way of receiving a loan. For any home loan application, the mortgage company will order a credit report, so it would be good to get a free report in advance to determine your credit status and make sure the report contains no erroneous information.

To order your free annual report from one or all of the national consumer reporting companies: Visit www.annualcreditreport.com and complete and submit the request form online.

Home Loan Application

To complete a home loan application you'll need: photo IDs (such as a driver's license); Social Security numbers; residence addresses for the past two years with landlord contact information if you rented; names and addresses of your employers for the past two years; your current gross monthly income; recent financial institution statements with names, addresses, account numbers and balances on all checking, savings, CDs, money market, bonds and mutual funds accounts; recent financial institution statements with names, addresses, account numbers, balances and monthly payments on all open loans (including student loans) and credit cards; addresses and loan information of all other real estate owned; estimated value of furniture and personal property; W2s for the past two years and current paycheck stubs; copies of all divorce decrees, child support documents or any other court proceedings that affect your financial status; verification of any child support payments; and evidence of any retirement or pension benefits.

VA or military forms include DD 214 (veteran), Form 22 (National Guard), DD 1747, Off-base Housing Authority (active duty) and Certificate of Eligibility (active duty).

For more information, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/credit-and-loans.

Knowing your monthly budget and the amount of your loan is invaluable during the next phase, especially finding the answers to questions before the hunt for a home begins.

Housing Hunting

First, determine your home preferences. Does a single-family house, condo, town house or duplex best fit your needs and budget? Do you prefer a new home, an existing home or to build one? Though new homes generally cost more, existing homes may come with maintenance issues and renovation costs. How many bedrooms and bathrooms would you like? Do you want an attached garage? Will you live in the city, a suburb or the country? How close to work, school, shopping or public transportation do you want to be? Answers to these questions

will greatly assist your search and the next stage — hiring a real estate agent.

The ideal agent will help find your ideal home and guide you through the purchase process. First, interview potential candidates to ensure they understand your needs, know your home-buying and neighborhood preferences, and are readily accessible.

Good luck and happy hunting!

State Programs

South Carolina provides housing programs and incentives to help residents with home ownership. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/states and select “South Carolina” from the list.

The South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority assists first-time homebuyers in obtaining mortgages and manages the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program for renters. Go to www.schousing.com or call 803-896-9001.

Charleston County Programs

The Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority provides information

and resources on local housing programs. Its website has information on housing choice vouchers, which allow low-income households to pay approximately one-third of their income in rent. There is also information on public housing, a government-funded program that provides rental housing to low-income households. For more information, visit <http://cchra.net>.

The Housing Authority of the City of Charleston, www.chacity.org/housing-assistance.cfm, also provides information on housing assistance and public housing in the area. The authority has been providing decent, safe and clean housing to those with low to moderate income since 1935.

Another resource for Charleston city residents is the Homeownership Initiative. This program provides affordable housing to persons of low- and moderate-incomes while revitalizing neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?NID=242 or contact the Housing Development Office at 843-724-7353.

MOVING CHECKLIST

Six weeks prior to move

- Contact a real estate agent in the local area. Start by looking in the Military Buyer's Guide of this publication.
- Obtain quotes from moving and self-service companies and gather DIY estimates. Decide on the type of move best for your circumstances.
- Determine employer-covered expenses.

Four weeks prior to move

- Check the preregistration procedures to enroll children in school. Get children's transcripts, textbook list and a copy of their current school's grading system. Ask teachers to write descriptions of each student's achievement level, interests and any unusual courses taken.
- Request that copies of all family members' medical and dental records and birth certificates be sent to your new home. Don't forget your pets' veterinary records.
- Notify the post office of your new address and obtain a change-of-address kit. Send change-of-address cards to friends, subscription services, creditors, alumni associations, the Department of Motor Vehicles and insurance companies.
- Begin packing seldom-used items and dispose of unwanted items through charities — get receipts for tax purposes.
- Contact the IRS for forms and regulations regarding tax-deductible moving expenses.
- Transfer or arrange for insurance to cover your home, furnishings and automobile.

Three weeks prior to move

- Arrange to have appliances, utilities, newspapers, laundry, phone and cable television disconnected. Check on deposits. Set up connections at your new home.
- Make travel arrangements.

Two weeks prior to move

- Handle bills, stocks, investments and banking transfers.
- Arrange to transport pets and plants. Some states prohibit certain plants, so research before you move.
- Clean cupboards and plan remaining meals so you can pack what you don't need.

One week prior to move

- Discontinue delivery services such as the newspapers.
- Clean and sort items in the garage and attic.
- Clean out your safety deposit box and place all valuables and documents together. If the items can't be replaced, carry them with you.

Two days prior to move

- Defrost and dry refrigerators and freezers.
- Arrange for cash or traveler's checks for trip expenses and payment to the mover upon delivery.
- Reconcile and close checking account. Withdraw savings.

- Conclude any financial matters relating to the lease or sale of your home.
- Pack luggage. Set aside items you will need immediately upon arrival — a few dishes, pots and pans, towels, soap, bedding, light bulbs, flashlights and toilet paper.
- Leave a forwarding address with new tenant or neighbor.

Moving day

- Confirm your delivery date with your mover and provide directions to your new residence as well as primary and secondary contact numbers or email addresses.
- Pay close attention to the mover's paperwork. You will need to sign it upon completion of loading and then unloading at your new residence.
- Supervise the movers to make sure your instructions are understood. Review any damage to your belongings noted by the moving foreman or supervisor.
- Double-check your residence for forgotten items before leaving.

Move-in day

- Clear and mark paths to all rooms to help the movers place the boxes.
- Supervise unloading.
- Note any damage to your boxes or furniture.
- Review paperwork carefully to make sure all your belongings arrived.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOARMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS T. CHARLTON

Employment & Economy

in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

SOUTH CAROLINA IS NOW the second-most-popular destination for movers in the United States, with Charleston adding 34 newcomers every day. Economists predict this may be due in part to a larger trend of people seeking locations where housing costs are relatively lower (statewide, 25 percent below the national average), climates are more temperate and job growth has been at or above national averages. Much of this job growth can be attributed to the Charleston Aviation Complex (which includes Boeing South Carolina, the Charleston County Aviation Authority, the Charleston International Airport terminals and Joint Base Charleston). The complex contributes billions to the region's economy and supports thousands of local jobs. And Boeing's latest additions to its operations continue to dramatically expand and diversify the region's aerospace sector. Aerospace manufacturing (led by Boeing) is slated to create the most jobs for the Charleston region, with physicians, restaurants and computer systems design not far behind.

The Charleston region's population is growing three times faster than the U.S. average, to more than 744,000. A steady stream of well-educated young talent who come for jobs — or create their own in the business-friendly community — are helping to boost that number.

The median age in Charleston County is 35.8 years old, 36.9 in Berkeley County and 35.5 in Dorchester County, meaning the workforce skews younger. The workforce is expected to get even younger as millennials are flocking to the area in droves. Median household income in Charleston County is \$57,882, \$56,697 in Berkeley County and \$58,685 in Dorchester County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

By Land and Sea

South Carolina's first transportation revolution was the development of a network of canals and waterways. From the 1790s to the 1830s, the Palmetto State was a pre-eminent leader in infrastructure improvements and developed an extensive system of more than 2,000 miles of canals and waterways connecting virtually every

part of the state with the coast and the Port of Charleston. The geography of South Carolina dictated the development of its canals and river navigation schemes, but it was cotton, the state's all-important cash crop, that necessitated this mode of transportation. The goal was to transport cotton from plantations across the state to the port of Charleston for shipment. From the first settlement in South Carolina, economic success was in fact dependent on waterways. But in the 1830s, the canal boom ended when another transportation innovation, the railroad, superseded waterway travel as the primary link to the ports.

Railroads played a significant role in the Charleston area during the Civil War with troop movement, but their greatest use was for transporting goods and material to aid in the war effort. Many miles of track were destroyed by Gen. William T. Sherman on his march through South Carolina, but many miles were also torn up by locals to be used on more important lines across the state and the Confederacy. After

the war, South Carolinians made quick repairs and by 1870 had added another 300 miles of new track.

The Port of Charleston suffered in the wake of the Civil War. The harbor itself was in shambles and filled with mines and the wrecks of sunken Confederate and Union ships. The Southern economy had little to export, and Charleston's network of private waterfronts was neglected and left to ruin. The establishment of several major federal military bases during the early 20th century benefited Charleston Harbor tremendously. Because of this federal presence, the harbor itself was well-maintained and greatly improved over the years. Today, the Port of Charleston is one of the largest ports in the United States, boasts the deepest water in the southeast region and regularly handles ships too big to transit through the Panama Canal.

The latest shot in the arm to Charleston's economy comes from Volvo Cars of America, which broke ground on its first American manufacturing plant in Berkeley County in September 2016. The factory will eventually be capable of producing 150,000 cars per year and started rolling sedans off the assembly line in 2018. Officials estimate the creation of 2,000 direct jobs with over 8,000 total jobs in the area as a result.

Natural Resources

Charleston's earliest history is tied to its prominence as a center of trade. From the founding of the colony until the days of the Civil War, the colony's principal exports were lumber and naval stores, furs and animal skins, rice, indigo, cotton and tobacco — all abundant in an economy based on plantations and slave labor. Exports of rice and indigo crops led South Carolina to become one of the wealthiest colonies prior to the American Revolution. Near the beginning of the 18th century, planters began rice culture along the coast, mainly in the Georgetown and Charleston areas. The rice became known as Carolina Gold, both for its color and its ability to produce great fortunes for plantation owners. In the 19th century, the invention of the cotton gin enabled profitable processing of short-staple cotton, which grew better in the area than long-staple cotton. The Civil War ruined the economy, and continued dependence on agriculture made South Carolina one of the poorest states for the next century.

In the 1950s, as factories were built across the state, the great majority of farmers left agriculture. The rapid decline of agriculture in the state has been one of the most important developments since the 1960s. As late as 1960, more than half the state's cotton was picked by hand.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ARMAN MEGAN MUNOZ

Over the next 20 years, mechanization eliminated tens of thousands of jobs in rural counties. Cotton was no longer king, as cotton lands were converted into timberlands.

Service industries, such as tourism, education and medical care, grew rapidly, as the textile factories faded after 1970 with movement of jobs offshore.

Today, Charleston enjoys a diverse economy. An abundant and well-educated workforce is employed in thriving chemical, automotive, telecommunications, healthcare and professional services sectors. Retail trade and tourism are also thriving economic sectors.

Military Impact on South Carolina

Joint Base Charleston has a total economic impact of \$8.7 billion each year according to a 2017 economic impact study by the South Carolina Military Base Task Force and the University

of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business. The base is associated with approximately 50,000 jobs and \$3.6 billion in labor income.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

National Resources

At the national level, websites such as www.linkedin.com, www.monster.com, www.careerbuilder.com and www.indeed.com have extensive search capabilities as well as resume tips, forum support and professional networking options.

The National Military Spouse Network, a networking, mentoring and professional development organization, has a wealth of career information at its website, www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org. The group aims to help military spouses build a meaningful, sustained career path and offers



PHOTO BY: AIRMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS T. CHARLTON

a library of articles that touch on topics like entrepreneurship, resume tips, self-promotion and more as well as a membership-only discussion forum. The organization also features companies that are military spouse-owned or military spouse-friendly on its Homefront Business Listings page.

Local Resources

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

<https://dew.sc.gov>

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) is responsible for paying unemployment insurance benefits, collecting unemployment taxes, helping people find jobs, matching businesses with qualified candidates, and collecting and disseminating state/federal employment statistics. DEW has one of the most comprehensive databases for job seekers. Here you can search jobs, set up a profile, post a resume and find training opportunities.

State of South Carolina

<https://tinyurl.com/yc774vwu>

Employment opportunities with the state of South Carolina are posted online. Find open state government jobs and agencies that aid workforce development.

Berkeley County

Human Resources

1003 Highway 52

Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-719-4163

www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/humanresources/jobopenings

Berkeley County is among the top employers in the Charleston MSA. Jobs are posted online with salary included if applicable, and applications are available for online submission only with an Applicant Online account.

Charleston County

4045 Bridge View Drive

North Charleston, SC 29405 843-958-4700

www.charlestoncounty.org/employment.php

Jobs are posted online for Charleston County and public library jobs, along with benefit information. Applications can be submitted online or in person.

Dorchester County

201 Johnston St.

St. George, SC 29477..843-563-0141/832-0141

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/dorchestercounty>

Jobs are posted online and include salary and benefit information. Applications can be submitted online or in person. Promotional opportunities for current county employees are posted online as well. For questions, call the Human

Resources Department at 843-832-0141 or 843-563-0141.

City of Charleston

80 Broad St.

Charleston, SC 29401 843-724-7388

<https://tinyurl.com/yam4z36>

View current job opportunities and the application procedures online. Call Human Resources at 843-724-7388 with any questions.

City of Goose Creek

519 N. Goose Creek Blvd.

Goose Creek, SC 29445 843-797-6220

www.cityofgoosecreek.com

Click "Employment" to view job openings and apply for an open position.

City of North Charleston

2500 City Hall Lane

North Charleston, SC 29406 843-554-5700

<https://tinyurl.com/yb358o62>

From the menu on the city's website, choose "Job Vacancies" to access North Charleston's city job vacancies and the city's online application.

Town of Moncks Corner

118 Carolina Ave.

Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-719-7900

www.monckscornersc.gov/employment

From the town's website, see available employment opportunities and download the employment application to submit at the address above or mail to the P.O. box listed on the application.

Town of Mount Pleasant

100 Ann Edwards Lane
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464..... 843-884-8517
www.tompssc.com

From the home page, click "Apply for a Job" to access job openings, see Mount Pleasant's employee benefits, download an application, apply online or create a job alert.

Town of Summerville

100 W. Richardson Ave., Suite E
Summerville, SC 29483..... 843-851-4222
www.summervillesc.gov

From the main menu on the town's website, click "Human Resources" from the Departments tab to see Employment Opportunities. Applications must be submitted in person or by mail.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

An employment agency can offer posts ranging from high-level administration to warehouse work. Many employers use agencies as their human resources department. Agencies advertise, interview, test and manage payroll. A temp-to-perm arrangement allows the employer and prospective employee to evaluate each other before committing to permanent employment.

Municipal and regional chambers of commerce include local employment agencies in their member lists, along with contact information. See Page 22 for a list of chambers of commerce in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

JOB-SEEKER TIPS

Always keep your resume up-to-date and have several versions that target specific industries and highlight your skills that fit their job descriptions.

Compile several reference lists with a good variety of people and former business associates. Be sure to first ask each if you can use them as references.

Compose a comprehensive, catchy and succinct cover letter of no more than a page (this is no place to ramble). It will introduce you and your desire to work for the company. Have a knowledgeable friend check it for errors; misspelled words and bad grammar hint at carelessness and indifference. Know what the company does, and highlight skills, work experience and education that apply to the position.

Maintain a positive, professional and broad-based presence on social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn; almost all employers search social media sites to vet job candidates, and your

absence there will raise red flags. Also be aware that images and comments posted spur-of-the-moment can be searched out forever and come back to haunt you.

Be prepared for an interview at any time. When you submit your application, a supervisor may want to talk immediately, or the phone may ring with a call from a hiring director. Compose — and rehearse — your one-minute self-promotional speech on who you are, an achievement or two and your strengths. It's not vanity to make a good first impression. If a supervisor wants to know why she should hire you, be ready.

Always follow up with thank-you letters and calls. Even today, a letter, as well as the quick-response email, will separate you from a surprising number of the other applicants — to your advantage — and keep your name fresh in the interviewer's mind. Judicious calls display your continued interest. Writing out beforehand what you want to say helps. So does rehearsal.

Be aware that due to the usually huge numbers of applicants, most companies are able to follow up only with candidates in whom they are interested. Don't take it personally if you are not notified that you did not get the job.

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON CIVILIAN OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Jobs

Visit www.usajobs.gov to search for Department of Defense jobs at Joint Base Charleston by searching "Charleston" or "Goose Creek." Or call Joint Base Charleston's Human Resources Office at 843-794-7065.

NAF Jobs

For information about service jobs, including openings in lodging, marina, recreation areas

and more (non-appropriated fund positions), call Joint Base Charleston's NAF hotline at 843-794-7068.

Exchange Jobs

For Base Exchange jobs, visit the AAFES career page at <http://odin.aafes.com/employment> and search for Charleston.

Search for jobs at Charleston's Main Navy Exchange and Navy Lodge at www.mynavyexchange.com/nex/work-for-us and search for Charleston or Goose Creek.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina Small Business Development Center

The South Carolina Small Business Development Center offers small business resources and workshops for those looking to start a business. Visit www.scsbdc.com to get started. Or visit the South Carolina Small Business Development Center's location in North Charleston at 6296 Rivers Ave., Suite 300. Call 843-740-6160 for more information.

Small Business Resources

www.usa.gov/business

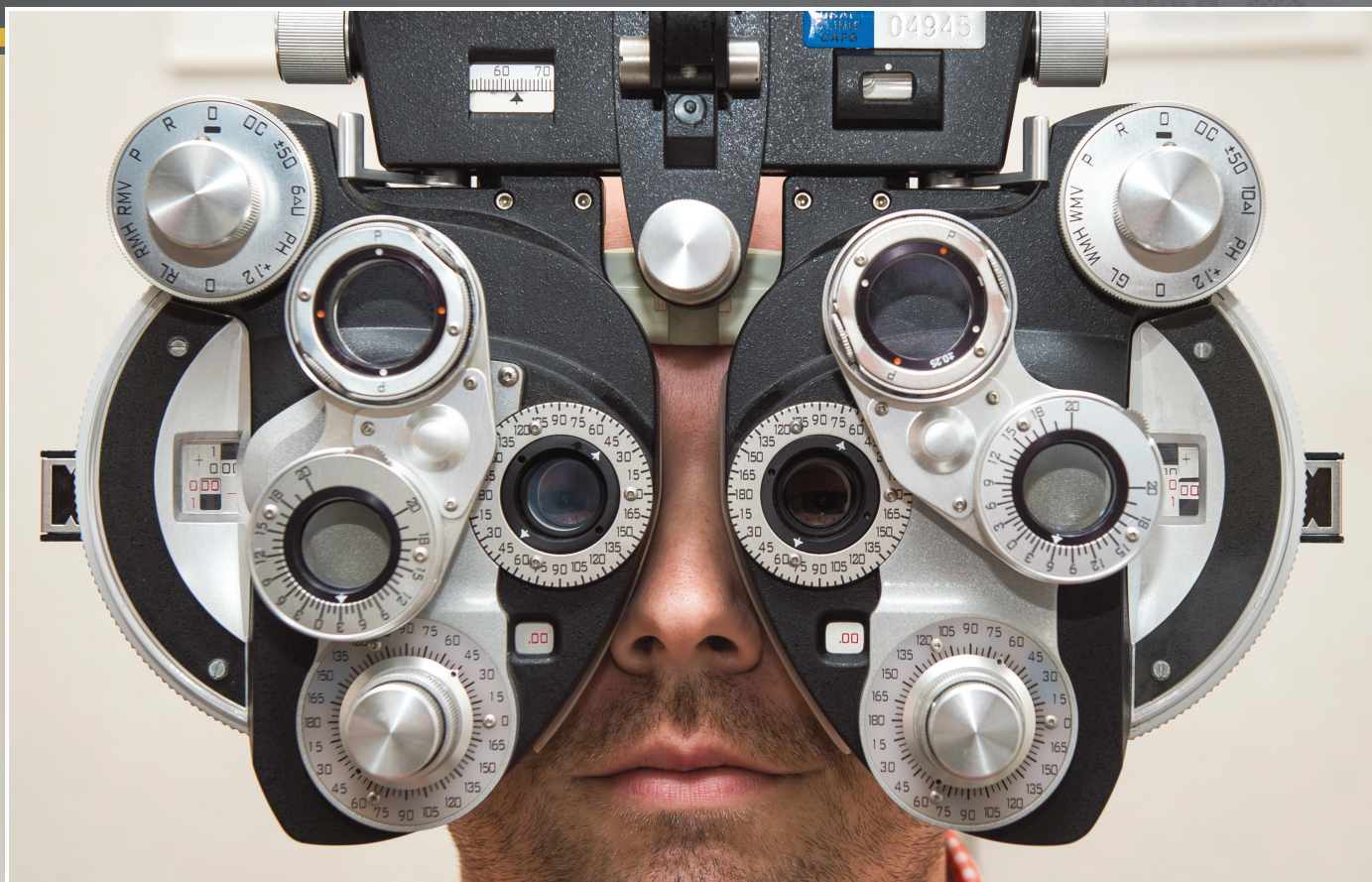
Learn the steps to start and grow a small business at USA.gov's Small Business website. The platform features hand-picked government websites helpful to small business owners. Learn about business taxes and incentives, financing a business, importing and exporting, federal government contracting, state business resources and more. The website also provides information on a wide range of programs and services to help veterans, women, minorities and the economically disadvantaged start or grow a business.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Charleston, South Carolina Metro Area

| Company | Industry | Employment Range |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Joint Base Charleston | Federal Government | 22,000 |
| Medical University of South Carolina..... | Hospital, Higher Education | 13,000 |
| The Boeing Company | Aircraft Manufacturing | 7,000 |
| Berkeley County School District | Public Schools | 5,000-6,999 |
| Charleston County School District..... | Public Schools | 5,000-6,999 |
| Roper St. Francis Healthcare..... | Hospital | 5,000-6,999 |
| Dorchester County School District II..... | Public Schools | 3,000-4,999 |
| Charleston County..... | Local Government | 2,000-2,999 |
| Trident Health System | Hospital | 2,000-2,999 |
| Walmart Inc..... | Retail..... | 2,000-2,999 |
| Robert Bosch, LLC | Electronics Manufacturing..... | 2,000-2,999 |
| US Postal Server | Federal Government | 2,000-2,999 |

Source: www.charlestonchamber.org/economicdata, Dec. 2018



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Health Care

in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

THERE ARE MANY HEALTH care services in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties for military, civilians and veterans, though implementation of the Affordable Care Act has changed established insurance options. Visit www.healthcare.gov for information on open enrollment for health care coverage under the national Affordable Care Act. Local agents can help walk applicants through the maze of choices; visit <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov>.

See the Military Buyer's Guide to connect with local hospitals and medical centers, health care centers and health care providers.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINICS AND RESOURCES

A community health center or clinic is customarily the place to go for those who have no health insurance or have limited income or ability to pay medical fees. Such clinics accept most insurance and provide affordable, comprehensive health care by well-trained, professional staff. They also serve those who are uninsured

and underinsured, and most are open to making sliding scale payment arrangements based on income and family size.

For a full list of community health centers in South Carolina, visit the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association website at www.scp-hca.org and select "Health Centers."

DENTAL CARE

The South Carolina Board of Dentistry webpage, www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry, provides a list of dentists within the state. Click on its "Licensee Lookup" link, then search for a dentist, hygienist and more by city or by name. You can also seek referrals from people you know who've had dental care in the area.

Consider the following to find the best dentist for your needs.

- Are the dentist's office hours convenient for your schedule?
- Is the dental office close to your home or office?
- How are dental emergencies handled?

- Does the office appear to be clean and well organized?
- Is the staff helpful and friendly?
- What are the dental office's financial policies and how is insurance handled?

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provides tips for oral health, guidance for dentists and more at www.scdhec.gov/health/oral-health.

FINDING A LOCAL DOCTOR

Before you arrive at your new assignment, you can check the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners' webpage at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/medical. You can use the "Licensee Lookup" link to search for a provider by city or name. This should give you a preview of the local medical practitioners as well as where you might need to go for specialized care.

Personal referrals from friends or other medical personnel can add to your options.

You can check a doctor's certification at the American Board of Medical Specialties at

www.abms.org. To see if anyone has registered a complaint or taken disciplinary action against the doctor, search the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners' reports at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/medical/index.asp?file=finalorders.htm or call 803-896-4500. When you have selected a health care provider, consider the following.

- When you scheduled your appointment, was the receptionist friendly, prompt and professional? Did he or she take time to answer your questions? Were you left on hold too long?
- When you arrived for your appointment, were you greeted promptly? Was the reception area clean and comfortable? Was the staff friendly and willing to answer your questions?
- Did you have to wait long in the exam room before the doctor arrived? Was the exam room orderly and clean, with a chair for a family member?
- When the doctor arrived and introduced himself or herself, did he or she seem rushed or tired? Did you get a good first impression?
- During the consultation, did nurses or assistants pop in and out? Did the doctor seem caring, compassionate and sympathetic to your concerns? Did you feel comfortable revealing personal information? Did the doctor rush through the meeting?

Treat finding a doctor as seriously as looking for a new job or a new home. You want to be comfortable with the person who will see you while you are most vulnerable.

FOR VETERANS

Veterans in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties are served within Veterans Integrated Service Network 7 — the VA Southeast Network, with the nearest major medical center in Charleston, about 15 miles away from Joint Base Charleston. VISN 7 serves veterans in 244 counties in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina with eight medical centers and more than 55 community-based outpatient clinics. The closest community outpatient clinics are in North Charleston and Goose Creek.

Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center

109 Bee St.

Charleston, SC 29401 843-577-5011
www.charleston.va.gov

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center consists of one primary, secondary and tertiary care facility in Charleston, serving more than 67,000 veterans in 21 counties and encompassing more than 15,000 square miles. The center offers primary, tertiary and long-term care in the areas of



medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, women's health and dentistry. The Charleston VAMC is a 152-bed teaching hospital with 20 operating nursing home care beds and is dedicated to providing the highest quality of patient care and services to veterans along the South Carolina and Georgia coasts.

The following is a list of community-based outpatient clinics and vet centers in the area. For a full list of clinics and other facilities, go to www.southeast.va.gov.

Charleston Vet Center

3625 W. Montague Ave.

North Charleston, SC 29418 843-789-7000

Goose Creek Clinic

2418 NNPTC Circle

Goose Creek, SC 29445 843-577-5011

Trident Clinic

9237 University Blvd.

North Charleston, SC 29406 843-789-6400

South Carolina Division of Veterans' Affairs

1205 Pendleton St., Suite 463

Columbia, SC 29201 803-734-0200

24-hour VA Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255

<http://va.sc.gov>

The Division of Veterans' Affairs improves the quality of life for South Carolina's veterans, military and their families by increasing awareness and access to appropriate federal, state and local resources.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS

Because emergencies can happen without warning, it is prudent to know where to go when they happen. Saving minutes in a crisis



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can mean saving a life. Knowing what services are available, and where, can make all the difference. Visit the following websites for more information on local hospital and medical center services.

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital

2095 Henry Tecklenburg Drive
Charleston, SC 29414 843-402-1000
www.rsfh.com/st-francis-hospital

Centre Pointe Emergency

5249 Emmett I. Davis Jr. Ave. N
Charleston, SC 29418 843-746-2400
<https://tridenthealthsystem.com/locations/centre-pointe-emergency>

East Cooper Medical Center

2000 Hospital Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843-881-0100
www.eastcoopermedctr.com

LowCountry Women's Specialists

9291 Medical Plaza Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-797-3664
77 Springview Lane
Summerville, SC 29485 843-797-3664
<http://lowcountrywomen.com>

**Medical University of South Carolina
Children's Hospital**

165 Ashley Ave.
Charleston, SC 29425 843-792-1414
www.musckids.org/locations/childrens-hospital

**Medical University of South Carolina
Emergency Services**

25 Courtenay Drive
Charleston, SC 29425 843-792-1414
171 Ashley Ave.
Charleston, SC 29425 843-792-1414
<https://muschealth.org>

Moncks Corner Medical Center

401 N. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-761-8742
<http://tridenthealthsystem.com/location/moncks-corner-medical-center>

Roper Hospital

316 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401 843-724-2000
www.rsfh.com/roper-hospital

Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital

3500 Highway 17 N
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466 843-606-7000
www.rsfh.com/mount-pleasant-hospital

Summerville Medical Center

295 Midland Parkway
Summerville, SC 29485 843-832-5000
<https://tridenthealthsystem.com/locations/summerville-medical-center>

Trident Medical Center

9330 Medical Plaza Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-797-7000
<https://tridenthealthsystem.com/locations/trident-medical-center>

Vibra Hospital of Charleston

1200 Hospital Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843-508-8911
www.vibrahealthcare.com/charleston

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

**South Carolina Department of Health and
Environmental Control**

2600 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201 803-898-3432
www.scdhec.gov

The mission of the state's department of health and environmental control is to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment. To that goal, the organization offers services provided statewide by public health professionals to assure that water is safe, children have their immunizations, restaurants are safe and birth certificates are correct — to name just a few.

The department's main office is in Columbia, but its 3,400 employees work in 100 locations across the state. Local health clinics offer a variety of services, including immunizations, family planning, STD counseling and testing, WIC and nutrition services, women's health services and more. Services vary by location. A listing of local health clinics in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties follows. For a full list of local health units, their hours and their available services, visit www.scdhec.gov/about-dhec/locations and click on the Health Offices map.

Goose Creek

106 Westview Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445 843-572-3313

Johns Island

3574 Maybank Highway
Johns Island, SC 29455 843-559-2855

Moncks Corner

109 W. Main St.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-719-4600

Mount Pleasant

1189 Sweetgrass Basket Parkway, Suite 100
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843-856-1210

North Charleston

3963 Whipper Barony Lane
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-740-1580

Northwoods

2070 Northbrook Blvd., Suite A20
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-953-4300

Sea Island

3627 Maybank Highway
Johns Island, SC 29455 843-302-8958

Summerville

500 N. Main St., Suite 9
Summerville, SC 29483 843-832-0041



Family Resources

in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

PICKING UP FROM ONE place and moving to another is always a hassle, especially when kids and pets are involved. Knowing whom to call or where to find information can help make the transition easier.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

The Red Cross helps members of the military, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service.

The American Red Cross offers confidential services to all members of the military, veterans, and their families by connecting them with local, state and national resources through the network of chapters in communities across the United States and offices on military installations worldwide.

Local Red Cross offices develop and maintain relationships with key community partners. Military families rely on the Red Cross to help them identify their needs and connect them to the most appropriate Red Cross and

community resources. This key Red Cross service includes responding to emergency needs for food, clothing, and shelter, referrals to counseling services (e.g., financial, legal, mental health), respite care for caregivers, and other resources that meet the unique needs of local military members, veterans and their families.

The American Red Cross Emergency Communications Center is available to help 24/7. Call 877-272-7337 or submit an online request at <https://saf.redcross.org/css>.

Armed Services YMCA

www.asymca.org

The ASYMCA is made up of 13 branches and about 20 affiliate locations at local Y's and on some DOD facilities across the U.S.

It makes military life easier by providing programs and services to the young men and women of all five armed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

ASYMCA programs, services and events are designed to help the family come together, stay

together and have the ability to adjust, bounce back and thrive wherever the services send them — with a particular focus on junior-enlisted men and women, the individuals on the front lines of defending our nation. Programs are offered at low cost and require no dues or membership fees.

Signature programs include Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala, Art and Essay Contest, Military Family Month, Operation Hero, Operation Holiday Joy, Operation Kid Comfort, Operation Outdoors, Operation Ride Home, Parent and Me, Teddy's Child Watch and YMCA/DOD Military Outreach Initiative.

Find ASYMCA locations by visiting www.asymca.org/locations.

Child Care Aware

www.childcareaware.org

Improving access to affordable, quality child care is one of Child Care Aware of America's top goals. Search the site's "State by State Resources for Families" to connect with national organizations and associations that provide information



for families regarding child development, parenting, and child care concerns and questions.

The site has information on the different types of child care and how to choose the right child care for your family. Financial resources include a child care budgeting calculator and information on federal and state fee assistance. There's also a special section for military and DOD families with links to military child care fee assistance. To speak with a specialist about military and DOD child care programs, call 800-424-2246, option 6.

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

Military OneSource is your central hub and go-to-place for the military community. Get to know your benefits and prepare for the big stuff — deployments, reintegration, moves, parenthood, retirement and more. Browse by topic or search for that strangely specific question you want to know the answers to. No matter where military life takes you, with Military OneSource you will always be in the loop.

Operation Homefront

www.operationhomefront.org

Operation Homefront assists military families during difficult financial times by providing food assistance, auto and home repair, vision care, travel and transportation, moving assistance, essential home items, and rent-free transitional housing for wounded veterans and their families.

Helping military families gain long-term stability is a specific concern for Operation Homefront. Homes on the Homefront awards mortgage-free homes, impacting veteran families for generations to come. The caregivers for wounded warriors also need help and that is why Hearts of Valor was formed.

Operation Homefront's annual gala recognizes extraordinary military kids. The organization also hosts multiple Homefront Celebrations, Star-Spangled Baby Showers, Back-to-School Brigades and Holiday Meals for Military events each year to show appreciation to military spouses.

Visit Operation Homefront online for more information.

South Carolina Department of Social Services

Charleston County Office

3366 Rivers Ave.

North Charleston, SC 29405 843-953-9400

Berkeley County Office

2 Belt Drive

Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-761-8044

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Dorchester County Office

216 Orangeburg Road
Summerville, SC 29483 843-821-0444
<https://dss.sc.gov>

The South Carolina Department of Social Services provides protective services for children and vulnerable adults as well as adoption and foster care services. It has offices in each county and regional locations to handle cases of abuse and neglect, adoptions, clinical services, child support enforcement, disaster response and more. Additional assistance programs include food and nutrition aid, child care vouchers and work programs. Visit the website for additional information and for emergency hotline numbers for reporting abuse; Medicaid assistance; the Women, Infants & Children program (WIC); and more.

United Service Organization

www.uso.org

Since 1941, the USO has kept our military men and women connected to their families, home and country no matter where they are or under what conditions they serve. Programs for military families include Couples Seminars: Stronger Families, Comfort Crew for Military Kids, Operation That's My Dress, United Through Reading, Baby Showers: USO and What to Expect Present Special Delivery and The Sesame Street/USO Experience.

The USO also provides transition services to support Americans' return to civilian life after completing their military service. For more information, go to www.uso.org/programs/uso-pathfinder.

Visit the USO's website to find a location near you.

PETS

Moves are stressful for everyone — including the family pet. Pets can sense stress and a change in routine can be difficult for them. If possible, keep your pets in a quiet, secure area while movers pack up or unload your belongings. Movers will have your door open while they move boxes and furniture, and a pet may slip out the door undetected. Make sure you keep a collar with an ID tag on your pet at all times. Ensure the tag has your current phone number on it. It is also a good idea to microchip your pets. Remember to keep the microchip's contact information up-to-date. If your pet escapes during any part of your move, you want the animal shelter that scans the chip to be able to contact you.

Your pet may face many outside dangers in South Carolina, such as alligators, armadillos, bats, beavers, coyotes, moles, raccoons, skunks,

wild pigs, woodchucks and more. Keep your dog on a short leash in wooded areas, especially if it starts sniffing or pawing the ground. Avoid allowing your dog to walk around or swim in unknown waters. The area also is home to parasites, including fleas, ticks and ear mites. Outdoor pets can bring these pests into the home, posing a risk to humans since they can transmit disease through their bites. Limiting and supervising your pet's outdoor activities can help it avoid these dangers.

Animal Services**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**

Wildlife issues 843-953-5291
www.dnr.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is the principal advocate for and steward of the state's natural resources. The department's website has information on boating, fishing and hunting in the state. The website also offers tips about living with local wildlife.

Charleston County Animal Services

3691 Leeds Ave.
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-529-5319
<https://sheriff.charlestoncounty.org/operations-support.php#animal-control>

The county's animal control deputies are specially trained to handle situations involving domestic animals. This includes the removal of stray domestic animals that are unleashed (in or near roadways) and the transportation of injured domestic animals to the emergency veterinarian for treatment (when the animal's owner cannot be located). Deputies also conduct investigations relating to neglected or abused animals. Deputies have the power to enforce both local ordinances and state laws related to violations concerning domestic animals.

Berkeley County Animal Services

1003 Highway 52
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-719-4210
www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/dept/animalcontrol

Berkeley County's animal control department responds to animal bites, injured animals or aggressive animals. Other services include general animal control and enforcement of animal ordinances and laws. The county's animal shelter provides a healthy, safe and loving environment for rescued, abandoned, abused or neglected animals of Berkeley County.

Dorchester County Animal Services

500 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483 843-832-0015
www.dorchestercountysc.gov/services/code-enforcement/animal-control

The county's animal control department is responsible for conducting investigations and enforcing county ordinances related to the regulation of animals and animal owners. Animals without identification are transported to Dorchester Paws, the county's animal shelter. Visit <https://dorchesterpaws.org> for more information.

Pets for Patriots

<https://petsforpatriots.org>

Pets for Patriots' vision is to end animal homelessness in the United States while giving our military veterans and their families the greatest "thank you" of all: the extraordinary love of a companion pet. It makes this happen through its nationwide shelter and veterinary networks, military and veteran organizations, and a public that values the lives of both the vulnerable and heroic among us.

To learn more about adopting a pet, visit <https://petsforpatriots.org/adopt-a-pet/how-it-works>.

Veterinary Services

Veterinary services in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties are plentiful; see the Military Buyer's Guide to connect with local providers. Another source for connecting with a veterinarian is the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians website at www.scav.org.



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Education & Academics

in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOLS and educational opportunities for each family member is an important part of any move. This chapter outlines Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties' public schools system, private schools, charter schools and home schooling criteria, as well as local libraries and higher education institutions. To be enrolled in a South Carolina school, a child must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the school year. Those wishing to register their child in school should bring the following to the school office: a birth certificate or other proof of the child's age, and the child's previous school records and immunization records. For more details on South Carolina's minimum vaccine requirements for students in grades K-12, please visit the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control website at www.scdhec.gov. Check with the school for additional requirements.

South Carolina does not use Common Core education standards. Instead, the state has set its own standards for public schools that can be

found at <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning>. The state utilizes the Every Student Succeeds Act, which provides significant federal support for programs to serve students in kindergarten through 12th grade and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. ESSA limits the power of the federal government to set education policy for states and increases state and local flexibility in the use of federal funds.

Choosing a School

Choosing the right school is very important, so be sure to research each one before deciding. Contact the school by phone or by visiting its website, which is a valuable source to learn about a school district's statistics and curriculum. Talk to people in the area, especially friends and colleagues who already live there.

If the school shows promise, schedule a visit and bring a list of written questions about student-teacher ratios, computer availability, extracurricular activities, sports programs, music programs, gifted programs and grading standards.

Discuss the potential school with your child: what they liked and what they didn't like. Your family's ability to readily adapt to a move and to find happiness in your new home may depend, in part, on how happy your children are in their new school.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are tuition-free, serve all students and have open enrollment. For more information or a listing of charter schools in South Carolina, visit the South Carolina Public Charter School District website at www.sccharter.org.

HOME SCHOOLING

For an introduction to home schooling in South Carolina, visit the South Carolina Department of Education's website at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/home-schooling>. Here you will find information on home-school rules and regulations, home-school associations and more.

VirtualSC

<https://virtualsc.org>

VirtualSC is a free state-sponsored online program serving students currently attending public, private and home schools in grades six through 12 and adult education programs. VirtualSC offers free online courses aligned to state standards that are developed and taught by South Carolina-licensed teachers.

Palmetto Homeschool Association

<http://palmettoha.org>

Palmetto Homeschool Association is different from other accountability associations in that it protects parents' freedom to choose their own curriculum and school calendar, allows flexibility with assessing progress and maintaining records, and provides guidance so that the home school is in compliance with the South Carolina Option 3 law.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

To search for local private schools in South Carolina, visit the National Center for Education Statistics website and use the private school search tool at <https://tinyurl.com/ybhpwoyt>. Users may search by location, religious affiliation, school type and more.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Berkeley County School District

229 E. Main St.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-899-8600
www.bcsdschools.net

Berkeley County School District has 25 elementary schools, one combined elementary and middle school, 11 middle schools, 10 high schools and two education centers. The district has an enrollment of more than 33,000.

Charleston County School District

75 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401 843-937-6300
www.ccsdschools.com



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Charleston County School District, the second-largest school system in South Carolina, represents a unique blend of urban, suburban and rural schools that span approximately 1,000 square miles of coastal lands. The district serves more than 50,000 students in 85 schools and several specialized programs.

Dorchester School District Two

115 Devon Road
Summerville, SC 29483 843-873-2901
www.ddtwo.org

Dorchester School District Two serves more than 25,000 students at 15 elementary schools, six middle schools and three high schools. The district also has an adult education program and an alternative program for middle and high school students.

Dorchester School District Four

500 Ridge St.
St. George, SC 29477 843-563-4535
www.dorchester4.k12.sc.us

Dorchester School District Four serves approximately 2,500 students. The district offers three elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school and an educational center for grades 6-12.

UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties offer plenty of opportunity for continuing education. Joint Base Charleston's education center provides assistance, academic counseling and testing services to those who are seeking higher education opportunities. Use the following contact information to start your search for the school that is right for you.

Joint Base Charleston Education Center

Building 221, 101 W. Hill Blvd.
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404..843-963-4575
www.jbcharleston.com/education/education-center

Charleston Southern University

9200 University Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-863-7000
www.charlestonsonthern.edu

The Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina

171 Moultrie St.
Charleston, SC 29409 843-225-3294
www.citadel.edu

College of Charleston

66 George St.
Charleston, SC 29424 843-805-5507
www.cofc.edu

Embry-Riddle University

Building 221, 101 W. Hill Blvd.
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404..843-767-8912
<http://worldwide.erau.edu/locations/charleston>



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EDUCATION & ACADEMICS

Medical University of South Carolina

171 Ashley Ave.
Charleston, SC 29425 843-792-2300
<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/musc>

Park University

Building 221, 101 W. Hill Blvd.
Joint Base
Charleston, SC 29404 843-552-8301
www.park.edu

Southern Illinois University

Building 221, 101 W. Hill Blvd.
Joint Base
Charleston, SC 29404 843-552-7320
<http://ehs.siu.edu/wed/faculty-staff/off-camp/charleston-afb-sc.php>

Trident Technical College

7000 Rivers Ave.
North Charleston, SC 29406 843-574-6111
www.tridenttech.edu

University of South Carolina

945 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29208 803-777-0169
www.sc.edu

Webster University – Charleston

4105 Faber Place Drive, Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-760-1324
www.webster.edu/charleston

LIBRARIES

Public libraries in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties offer learning, recreation, distance education, internet connections and

EDUCATION LINKS

Find resources to help your student achieve academic success at these websites:

- **South Carolina Department of Education:**
<http://ed.sc.gov>
- **South Carolina PTA:** www.scpta.org
- **Reading is Fundamental:** www.rif.org
- **U.S. Department of Education:**
www2.ed.gov/parents

Military Child Education Coalition: Ensures quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. Visit www.militarychild.org for information on programs and resources.

Tutor.com: Eligible students and service members in U.S. military families around the world can work one-to-one with an expert tutor online 24/7. Get free help with homework, studying, test prep and proofreading in more than 40 subjects. Visit <http://military.tutor.com>.



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other resources for users — all for free. In addition, school libraries that support the curriculum and offer internet access and other resources are in most public and private schools, and academic and special libraries are found in colleges and universities. The South Carolina State Library, www.statelibrary.sc.gov, supports libraries in the state with resources, interlibrary loan and other assistance.

Residents can enjoy and make use of several libraries and bookmobiles in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the branches' websites. For a full list of libraries in South Carolina, visit the South Carolina State Library website.

Berkeley County Library System

1003 Highway 52
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-719-4223
<http://berkeleylibrarysc.org>

The Berkeley County Library System has six branches and a bookmobile. Visit the system's website for information on services, events and programming.

Charleston County Public Library

68 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401 843-805-6930
www.ccpl.org

The Charleston County Public Library serves residents with 16 locations and a bookmobile. For more information on the programs, services and events at each branch, visit the library system's website.

Dorchester County Library

76 Old Trolley Road
Summerville, SC 29485 843-871-5075
www.dcl.lib.sc.us

The Dorchester County Library has two branches. Visit the library system's website for information on patron services and special events.



Living

in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties

THE LOWCOUNTRY BOASTS PLENTY of entertaining activities — music, sports, theater, museums, parks and shopping. Test out the ropes course at Wild Blue Adventure Park, for instance, or tee off at one of the world-class championship golf courses in Kiawah Island or Isle of Palms. Don't miss the Parade of Boats or Festival of Lights during the holiday season. View snakes in their natural habitat at the Edisto Island Serpentarium. And be sure to check out the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Residents of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties will enjoy a variety of annual events, festivals and community gatherings.

Charleston Wine and Food Festival

www.charlestonwineandfood.com

Each spring this five-day event showcases chefs, winemakers, authors, storytellers, artisans and food enthusiasts from around the world. The

heart of the festival is the Culinary Village in Marion Square. Tickets are available through the website.

Christmas Festival and Parade

www.northcharleston.org/residents/special-events/christmas-festival

Celebrate the holidays in North Charleston with a holiday art and craft market, a parade, the tree lighting, visits with Santa, theater productions and more. For information on all North Charleston holiday events, visit the website.

Coastal Carolina Fair

www.coastalcarolinafair.org

Since 1957, the Coastal Carolina Fair has raised money for local charities while also providing family-oriented entertainment for Lowcountry residents and visitors. In 2016, more than \$800,000 was raised for over 90 organizations. Every fall, you can sample delicious fair food, enjoy thrilling rides, catch a concert, check out exhibits and more.

Flowertown Festival

<https://summervillemca.org/flowertown-festival-2019>

The spring blaze of azaleas, honey-scented wisteria and dogwood signal that it's time for this gracious town's annual three-day flower festival of arts, crafts, entertainment, good food and Southern hospitality to benefit the Summerville Family YMCA.

Fourth of July Festival

www.northcharleston.org/residents/special-events/4th-of-july-festival

The festival features musical guests, children's activities, food trucks, craft vendors and Lowcountry's largest Fourth of July fireworks show.

Holiday Festival of Lights

www.holidayfestivaloflights.com

Every holiday season James Island County Park puts up over 700 displays and more than 2 million lights along a 3-mile driving tour. If you'd rather not drive, hop aboard the festival train. The festival also features visits with Santa,



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marshmallow roasts, carousel rides, musical concerts, an enchanted walking trail and more.

Holiday Parade of Boats

www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?NID=870

Boats bedecked with lights sail in formation along a route from Mount Pleasant to Charleston in this December event. The sparkling aquatic parade draws thousands of spectators to the Charleston harbor.

Lowcountry Oyster Festival

www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com/oyster-fest

Join the thousands who gather in January for the world's largest oyster fest, the Lowcountry Oyster Festival. Held every year at Boone Hall Plantation, just outside downtown Charleston, bivalve connoisseurs consume more than 80,000 pounds of oysters at this single-day event filled with shucking and eating contests, live music,

wine, beer and food from some of the area's best restaurants.

North Charleston Arts Fest

<http://northcharlestonartsfest.com>

This festival in early May includes high-quality performances, exhibits and activities by local, regional and national artists. From music to dance, literature to theater, visual arts to media arts, the multiday festival offers something for everyone.

Spoletto Festival

www.spoletousa.org

One of the nation's major performing arts events, the Spoleto Festival was founded in 1977 by composer Gian Carlo Menotti. The yearly Charleston springtime talent extravaganza presents emerging and established artists in the visual arts, opera, theater, dance, and chamber, symphonic, choral and jazz music in more than 120 performances over 17 days and nights.

Veterans Day Tribute

www.northcharleston.org/residents/special-events/veterans-day

The Department of Defense and the Veterans Day National Committee selected North Charleston as one of two regional Veterans Day sites in the state for the past eight years. Each year, more than 500 veterans in attendance are honored on Veterans Day.

ARTS

Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester county residents enjoy a wealth of artistic endeavors, from theaters to music to dance and more.

Charleston Ballet Center for Dance

497 La Mesa Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464..... 843-469-2080
www.charlestonballet.com

The Charleston Ballet Center for Dance is the longest continually running ballet school in the

Lowcountry. Performances showcase an eclectic mix of contemporary and classical ballet. Visit the website for information on upcoming performances.

Dock Street Theatre

135 Church St.
Charleston, SC 29401 843-577-7183
www.charlestonstage.com/dock-street-theatre.html

Home to the Charleston Stage, the city's resident professional theater, performances can be seen each season in this historic 1809 venue, which features modern lighting and sound. The original Dock Street Theatre opened in 1736 as the first building in America built exclusively to host theatrical performances.

Gallery Row

Broad Street
Charleston, SC 842-722-5353
www.fb/

Charlestons-Gallery-Row-124326757584689

Enjoy the galleries in this shopping and art district, purchase fine art or sit down to a meal in one of the memorable restaurants. Gallery Row hosts "First Friday" events throughout the year, as well as various other events.

North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

5001 Coliseum Drive
North Charleston, SC 29418 843-529-5000
www.northcharlestoncoliseum.org

Whether you want to watch puck action with the South Carolina Stingrays, enjoy the Best of Broadway series or see ballerinas on tiptoes in "The Nutcracker," the North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center is the place to do it.

North Charleston POPS!

5001 Coliseum Drive
North Charleston, SC 29418 843-202-2787
www.northcharlestonpops.com

The North Charleston POPS! is a fully professional orchestra dedicated to bringing music of a popular nature to the Lowcountry. The North Charleston POPS! combine an orchestra with other genres of music and vocalists, as well as video delights.

MUSEUMS

Learn about South Carolina's history and cultural contributions by visiting any one of the many local museums.

Aiken-Rhett House Museum

48 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, SC 29403 843-723-1159
www.historiccharleston.org/house-museums/aiken-rhett-house



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Built in 1820, this town house complex showcases antebellum Charleston. The house and many of its fixtures and furniture have remained virtually untouched since the 1850s. Visitors exploring the home get a taste of 19th-century life in the city.

Berkeley Museum

950 Stony Landing Road
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-899-5101
<http://visitberkeleycounty.com/berkeley-museum>

The Berkeley Museum is a 5,600-square-foot exhibit building at the Old Santee Canal Park. The museum traces the area's history back 12,000 years. From the Native Americans to the battles of the famed Brig. Gen. Francis Marion during the American Revolution to the planters who settled the area, the museum provides an entertaining and lively perspective on Berkeley County's history.

The Charleston Museum

360 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC 29403 843-722-2996
www.charlestonmuseum.org

Founded in 1773, this museum is often referred to as America's first museum. Permanent exhibits include displays on Egyptian history, historic textiles and Charleston's role in the American Revolution and Civil War.

Drayton Hall

3380 Ashley River Road
Charleston, SC 29414 843-769-2600
www.draytonhall.org

This is the only plantation on the Ashley River that is still almost completely historically intact. Professional guided tours are available.

The Hunley at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center

1250 Supply St.
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-743-4865
www.hunley.org

The Hunley — the world's first successful combat submarine — in its 75,000-gallon conservation tank is available for tours. Tours include facial reconstructions of the Hunley crew, artifacts extracted from inside the submarine, the legendary gold coin that saved the Hunley captain's life and more.

The North Charleston and American LaFrance Fire Museum and Education Center

4975 Centre Pointe Drive
North Charleston, SC 29418 843-740-5550
www.northcharlestonfiremuseum.org

Established in 2007, the North Charleston and American LaFrance Fire Museum and Education Center is conveniently located just minutes from Charleston International Airport



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and adjacent to the Tanger Outlets mall. The museum blends firefighting history and hands-on education into one remarkable experience for the entire family.

Patriots Point

40 Patriots Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464..... 843-884-2727
www.patriotspoint.org

Patriots Point Development Authority was established in the 1970s to develop a naval and maritime museum on Charleston Harbor with the World War II aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown, as its centerpiece. It's also home to the Patriots

Point Museum and a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, the Cold War Memorial, the only Vietnam Experience Exhibit in the U.S., the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the agency's official Medal of Honor Museum. The USS Yorktown boasts one of the largest education and overnight camping programs in the nation, with more than 40,000 school-age children attending these programs each year.

PARKS

The Charleston area has a multitude of parks and recreational areas to enjoy, on land and by the sea. Check your community's parks and

recreation listings to see more of what your local area has to offer.

Butterfly Garden

4800 Park Circle
North Charleston, SC 29405 843-745-1028
www.northcharleston.org/

Park-Circle-Butterfly-Garden

The Park Circle Butterfly Garden is next to the Felix C. Davis Community Center in the middle of historic Park Circle. This hidden gem in the middle of the city offers a special place to enjoy a picnic or to just kick back and relax. See the most butterflies during spring and fall visits, but don't miss the nearby farmers market during the summer months.

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge

5801 N. Highway 17
Awendaw, SC 29429 843-928-3264
www.fws.gov/refuge/cape_romain

Cape Romain's beautiful beaches, salt marshes and maritime forest draw nearly 300 species of migratory birds. There are hiking trails, beachcombing, fishing and hunting, interpretive tours, including the historic lighthouse tour, and more. The refuge is accessible only by personal boat or ferry, which can be arranged through Coastal Expeditions. Visit their website at www.coastalexpeditions.com.

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site

1500 Old Towne Road
Charleston, SC 29407 843-852-4200
www.southcarolinaparks.com/charles-towne-landing

HOW TO ENJOY AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ON A BUDGET

Take advantage of free national parks passes for military members and dependents, discounted outdoor gear and tons of recreational opportunities to spend quality time with your family exploring the country's parks without breaking the bank.

Ready to hit the road? Here are a few travel tips:

- **Find a park:** With fields and forests, canyons and coastline, America's national parks have something for everyone. Search the NPS website for parks by name, location, activity or topic at www.nps.gov/findapark.
- **Visit the park's website:** Access all you need to know about hours, directions, activities and fees.
- **Plan your activities:** National parks offer exciting activities for all ages as well as wheelchair-accessible activities and trails. If you have children, check out the Junior Ranger events and programs.
- **Contact your Force Support Squadron:** Don't forget to contact FSS on your installation for lodging discounts and options. Whether you need a kayak, a mountain bike or camping gear, the air base's Outdoor Recreation Center and the weapons station's Outdoor Adventure Center have a lot of gear available to rent. And, the tickets and travel program can help you score discounted tickets to nearby attractions and activities.
- **Be Safe:** Always follow the park's rules and be alert to posted warnings. You don't want your trip to end in an emergency room.

This 664-acre site off the Ashley River introduces visitors to the earliest colonial history of Charleston. The site is home to hands-on exhibits, a natural habitat zoo, 80 acres of gardens, 7 miles of trails, a replica 17-century sailing ship, six fireable cannons and more.

Folly Beach

21 Center St.

Folly Beach, SC 29439

<https://visitfolly.com>

The closest beach to the city of Charleston, Folly Beach is a 12-square-mile barrier island with a fishing pier and lighthouse. Enjoy a walk on the beach or try the waves — Folly Beach is famed as one of the best surfing destinations on the East Coast.

Fort Sumter National Monument

1214 Middle St.

Sullivan's Island, SC 29482 843-883-3123

www.nps.gov/fosu

Situated on an island in Charleston Harbor, Fort Sumter National Monument is where the Civil War began. The Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square is the main ferry departure point for the fort, with transportation available daily. The center itself has exhibits on the events leading up to the Civil War, and National Park rangers are on hand to answer questions. Fort Sumter can only be reached by a tour boat or private boat; visit the website for more details.

Givhans Ferry State Park

746 Givhans Ferry Road

Ridgeville, SC 29472 843-873-0692

www.southcarolinaparks.com/givhansferry

Givhans Ferry State Park is the perfect place to take a float down the serene Edisto River, the longest free-flowing blackwater stream in North America. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Great Depression, the park is part of the 62-mile-long Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail, and is at the end of a popular 23-mile downstream paddle from Colleton State Park.

Riverfront Park

1001 Everglades Ave.

North Charleston, SC 29405 843-308-4746

www.northcharleston.org/visitors/attractions/riverfront-park

Riverfront is open to the public year-round and is a favorite destination for residents and visitors. On the banks of the Cooper River, the park is adjacent to the historic homes once occupied by naval officers stationed on the Charleston Naval Base. It is surrounded by grand oak trees and river vistas. Bordered by Noisette Creek, the park also boasts a contemporary performance pavilion and meadow.

Wannamaker County Park

8888 University Blvd.

North Charleston, SC 29406 843-762-5585

www.ccprc.com/1737/

North-Charleston-Wannamaker-County-Park

A nature-oriented park with more than 1,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands, this is a great family getaway. There are miles of paved trails, a nine-hole disc golf course, an off-leash dog park, picnic sites and the nearby Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark, with its seasonal, island-style water play on more than 15 acres.

SHOPPING

From malls and major department stores to unique boutiques and souvenir shops, there's something for every taste and budget.

Charleston City Market

188 Meeting St.

Charleston, SC 29401 843-937-0920

www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com

Part of Charleston for more than 200 years, the Charleston City Market is open daily with vendors selling everything from clothing and food to souvenirs and artwork.

Citadel Mall

2070 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.

Charleston, SC 29407 843-766-8321

www.citadelmall.net

Citadel Mall is home to many well-known department stores and specialty shops, and includes a 16-screen IMAX theater, play area and food court.

Freshfields Village

165 Village Green Lane

Kiawah Island, SC 29455 843-768-6491

www.freshfieldsvillage.com

Located at the crossroads of Kiawah, Seabrook and Johns Island at the end of Betsy Kerrison Parkway, Freshfields Village is a hub of shops, businesses, art galleries and restaurants, as well as weekly events such as Music on the Green.

Mount Pleasant Towne Centre

1218 Belk Drive

Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843-216-9900

www.mtpleasanttownecentre.com

This upscale shopping center in Mount Pleasant has more than 60 national and local retail stores, including a 16-screen movie theater.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Whether you're looking to take in a round of golf or cool off with a trip down a waterslide, you will find what you are after in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

Charleston RiverDogs

360 Fishburne St.

Charleston, SC 29403 843-577-3647

www.milb.com/charleston

The Charleston RiverDogs are a minor league baseball team that plays in the Class Single-A South Atlantic League and are an affiliate of the New York Yankees. The name originates from an urban legend that sailors in Charleston would notice large rats on the banks of the nearby Cooper and Ashley rivers and would call them "river dogs," and was chosen in a name-the-team contest held at local Piggly Wiggly outlets in 1994. Catch one of their thrilling games at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park.

Edisto Island Serpenterium

1374 Highway 174

Edisto Island, SC 29438 843-869-1171

www.edistoserpenterium.com

Open since 1999, this modern indoor facility and beautifully landscaped outdoor gardens house a wide variety of reptiles native to the southeastern United States. The reptiles in the outdoor gardens are not displayed behind glass but are viewed by visitors who look over low-walled enclosures to observe the snakes living in streams, climbing in trees or basking on stumps or logs. Alligators and turtles swim and play in large outdoor ponds in the outdoor gardens, while other reptiles bask in the large indoor solarium.

Family Circle Tennis Center

161 Seven Farms Drive

Charleston, SC 29492 843-849-5300

www.familycircletenniscenter.com

Family Circle Tennis Center on Daniel Island has 20 courts and a 10,200-seat stadium. The stadium has hosted the Volvo Car Open, Family Circle Junior Tennis Championship, concerts and more. Programs and lessons are available for children and adults. Visit the website for more information.

Golf

Step to the tee among stunning mountains, rolling hills or beautiful beaches. South Carolina offers hundreds of golf courses across the state with temperatures that allow play year-round. A variety of public and country club courses are available in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. In fact, Charleston has a wide array of golf courses to choose from, starting with the obvious selection of resort courses — five at Kiawah Island, including the Ocean Course, site of the 1991 Ryder Cup and 2012 PGA Championship, and two each at Seabrook Island and Isle of Palms' Wild Dunes Resort — but also ranging to lesser-known greens offering easier access

and good value. Mount Pleasant offers a trio of upscale designs: Charleston National, designed by famed architect Rees Jones; Dunes West Golf Club, designed by Arthur Hills; and RiverTowne Country Club, a onetime private club designed by Arnold Palmer and former host to Annika Sorenstam's eponymous LPGA tournament. For a full list of public and private courses in South Carolina, visit <http://discoversouthcarolina.com/golf>.

Palmetto Trail

<http://palmettoconservation.org/palmetto-trail>

The Palmetto Trail is South Carolina's longest pedestrian and bicycle trail and largest trail construction project — 500 continuous miles once completed. It will extend from the Oconee State Park to the Intracoastal Waterway in Charleston County. The multiuse recreational trail consists of 26 connecting passages that showcase the unique history, culture and geography of the Palmetto State. Each passage is designed for a weekend's enjoyment on the trail. Visit the website for an updated trail map.

South Carolina Aquarium

100 Aquarium Wharf

Charleston, SC 29401 843-577-3474

www.scaquarium.org

The South Carolina Aquarium has thousands of native animals and plants to view in 60 habitats and the 385,000-gallon Great Ocean Tank. Visitors can feed stingrays, tour the sea turtle hospital or enjoy the antics of river otters at play.

Whirlin' Waters

Adventure Waterpark

8888 University Blvd.

North Charleston, SC 29406 843-762-5585

www.ccprc.com/1658/Whirlin-Waters

Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark in North Charleston Wannamaker County Park offers seasonal, island-style water play packed into more than 15 acres. Attractions include the Big Splash Tree House with 66 interactive play elements and the Big Kahuna wave pool.

Wild Blue Adventure Park

1595 Highland Ave.

Charleston, SC 29412 843-225-1555

<http://wildblueropes.com>

Wild Blue Adventure Park is Charleston's award-winning ropes course. The course features 72 suspended obstacles up to 35 feet in the air. With four difficulty levels, the course is fun for all ages. Navigating obstacles and swinging from tree to tree makes it easy to channel your inner Tarzan.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/AIRMAN MEGAN MUNOZ

GO, TEAM, GO!

You may carry your sports team loyalties with you, no matter where you go, but you can root, root, root for these local favorites too. Check out their official team websites for schedules, venue information, ticket prices and more.

Professional

- **Charlotte Hornets (NBA):** www.nba.com/hornets
Major rival: Miami Heat
- **Carolina Hurricanes (NHL):** www.nhl.com/hurricanes
Major rivals: Florida Panthers, Washington Capitals and Boston Bruins
- **Carolina Panthers (NFL):** www.panthers.com
Major rivals: Atlanta Falcons, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and New Orleans Saints

College

- **Charleston Cougars (College of Charleston):** www.cofcsports.com
Major rival: Citadel Bulldogs
- **Citadel Bulldogs (The Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina):** <http://citadelsports.com>
Major rivals: VMI Keydets, Furman Paladins and College of Charleston Cougars
- **South Carolina Gamecocks (University of South Carolina):** www.gamecocksonline.com
Major rival: Clemson Tigers

Local league

- **Lowcountry Highrollers (roller derby):** www.lowcountryhighrollers.com