



MORE CHARLESTON

for less

By Angela Shultz



Hop aboard one of Charleston's horse-drawn carriage tours, and take a trip back to Colonial times while you learn about the history and lore of this charming Southern city.

The perfect culmination of history, fine dining, shopping, art and Southern hospitality. That's Charleston, SC—the abridged version—and it's one heck of a vacation spot.

This city of well-to-do Southerners boasts the kind of lavish goods and services that can satisfy the pickiest of palettes. The good news is that travelers can experience all Charleston has to offer on even the smallest of budgets. There's a multitude of economical activities that are sure to fill your day with fun, all without emptying your wallet.

One of those activities requires only a comfy pair of shoes. A stroll along the streets of downtown is the perfect way to begin any day of vacation. A grid of Old-World homes and shops, the Colonial architecture of Charleston shines against a beautiful backdrop of coastal scenery. The good news is that much of the city's allure can be seen and experienced for the rock-bottom price of absolutely nothing at all.

After your morning walk, plan to spend hours browsing the worn, wooden vendor tables of Old City Market along Market Street. Every surface of this open-air bazaar is covered with unique, reasonably priced items—from local art to handmade jewelry and sweetgrass baskets. Then, if your feet are up to it, hit King Street,

The Old-World charm of Charleston isn't lost on King Street where great shops, eateries and hotels inhabit the unique buildings of centuries past.

where the buildings of yesterday are filled by the trendy, and often pricey, shops of today. But don't be intimidated—sale racks abound, and the savvy shopper can find heavy deals even with a lightweight wallet.

By now, you're sure to have worked up quite an appetite, so take a turn down Wentworth Street where you'll find Jestine's Kitchen. But there's no need to look for a sign—you'll smell the authentic Southern cuisine well before you actually catch a glimpse of the restaurant. And other than the wonderful aroma of sweet chicken and limas, you'll know you've arrived when you reach the long line that extends blocks from the window-lined storefront.

The crowd that has gathered is here for a taste of the recipes of Jestine Matthews, namesake of the restaurant. Living to be 112, Jestine shared her recipes with Dana Berlin who opened Jestine's Kitchen to share scrumptious Southern delights like shrimp and grits, chicken and sausage gumbo, crispy fried okra and generous slices of Coca-Cola cake. The best part—prices. They range from \$7 to \$16—easily fitting into any budget. But Jestine's Kitchen isn't the only inexpensive fare to be found in Charleston. Restaurants like The Kickin' Chicken and Juanita Greenberg's Nacho Royale will also satisfy your stomach without upsetting your wallet.

rustle the leaves of the palmettos. It's the perfect time, the perfect place, for a horse-drawn carriage ride. So sit back, relax and take in the sights. Stunning scenery. Waterfront mansions. The Battery. Rainbow Row. And all you have to pay for is the ride—and maybe a cold libation for the trip.

No matter what time of year it is, it's never difficult to lose yourself amidst the Old-World charm of Charleston. Whether you're strolling the cobblestone paths or shopping the fabulous stores, there's always a plethora of inexpensive—and often free—activities to enjoy. So regardless of your budget, head down to Charleston, SC, where you can get history for free, food for next to nothing and a whole lot of appreciation for the Old South without putting a strain on your bank account.



Now it's late afternoon, and as the sun sets, it casts pleasant shadows on the hot streets. Cool breezes

