



ANNUAL EVENTS

For a complete schedule of events,
visit explorecharleston.com

WINTER 2010

Winter Garden Festival

January 23 - February 22, 2010. Featuring a daily camellia walk and camellia lectures and/or demonstrations on the weekends. The schedule of events can be found on magnoliaplantation.com.

Lowcountry Oyster Festival

Sunday, January 31, 2010. One-of-a-kind festival features steamed oysters, barbeque, chili and more. A host of family activities including live entertainment, oyster eating and shucking contests, childrens' area and, of course, all the oysters you can eat! Boone Hall Plantation from 10am-5pm. Advanced tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at all local Applebee's Restaurants or the downtown Visitor Center. Day-of-tickets may be purchased at the gate for \$12. 843.577.4030 or charlestonrestaurantassociation.com.

Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

February 12 - 14, 2010. The nation's largest wildlife art and nature event, SEWE 2010 will feature 120 artists, presentations by Jack Hanna, Dock Dogs competitions, Bush Wildlife Sanctuary shows, retriever demos, children's activities. Venues throughout downtown Charleston. Day tickets: \$10-20; children 10 & under: free. VIP Packages available.

SPRING 2010

French Quarter Art Walk

First Friday of March, May, October & December. All 33 of the French Quarter District art galleries open their doors to the public free of charge. The district encompasses East Bay, Church, Meeting, South Market, Cumberland, Queen, Chalmers, Broad and Tradd Streets. frenchquarterarts.com.

BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival

March 4 - 7, 2010. The Festival combines Charleston's best gastronomic experiences into one delicious weekend. Guests will have the opportunity to indulge in the unique flavors of the Lowcountry while tasting the epicurean delights of the country's best chefs, authors and wine professionals. 843.727.9998 or charlestonwineandfood.com

63rd Annual Festival of Houses & Gardens

March 18 - April 17, 2010. Sponsored by the Historic Charleston Foundation, the Festival features interior tours of 150 privately-owned homes and gardens in 11 historic neighborhoods, and Lowcountry oyster roasts at Drayton Hall Plantation. Reservations 843.722.3405 or historiccharleston.org.

Charleston Fashion Week

March 16 - 20, 2010. Charleston's Marion Square will echo New York's Bryant Park during the third annual Charleston Fashion Week, 2010. Local boutiques and emerging designers from the Southeast showcase their Spring lines during this five-day celebration of the design community. Don't miss CFW '10 - named a Top Event by the Southeast Tourism Society.
charlestonfashionweek.com.

YMCA Flowertown Festival

March 26 - 28, 2010. Annual recreational and cultural event for the whole family. Nationally recognized with over 400 vendors, entertainment, a youth festival, the Taste of Summerville, and many extra events. Azalea Park on Main Street in Summerville.
843.871.9622.

Cooper River Bridge Run

March 27, 2010. Hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina, this 10K (6.2 mile) run and 4.4 mile walk begins in Mt. Pleasant, crosses the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. bridge, and ends in historic downtown Charleston. 843.937.4183 or bridgerun.com.

Upper King Design District Walks

Third Tuesday of April and October, 2010. Upper King Design District's Design Walk is a must on your list of great things to do in Charleston. From Calhoun to the Crosstown shops are open late, offering refreshments and special events. At 8:00pm many of the Design District restaurants have belated Happy Hours, special menus and beverages.
upperkingdesigndistrict.com.

23rd Annual World Grits Festival

April 16 - 18, 2010. Each Spring, St. George hosts the one and only World Grits Festival. Visitors can enjoy a parade, live music, cloggers, good grits meals and more!
843.563.7943 or worldgritsfestival.com.

Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament

April 10 - 18, 2010. The Family Circle Cup has called Charleston home since 2001. Some of the biggest names in women's professional tennis arrive at the Family Circle Tennis Center on Daniel Island to compete for one of the most coveted trophies in professional sports. 800.677.2293 or familycirclecup.com.

23rd Annual Blessing of the Fleet

April 25, 2010. This seafood festival celebrates the historical Mt. Pleasant shrimping industry with the ceremonial Blessing of the Fleet. Music, fresh seafood from local restaurants and the annual shrimp eating contest. Alhambra Hall, 131 Middle Street, from 11:30am-4:30pm. 843.884.8517.

North Charleston Arts Festival

April 30 - May 8, 2010. The multi-discipline festival features local, regional and national artists. The free two-day main event features 40 performances, art and photo exhibits, hands-on children's activities, art and fine craft booths, food and more. An array of free and ticketed events throughout the city round out the festival week: plays, concerts, storytelling, workshops, exhibits, street parties, and more. 843.745.1087 or northcharleston.org.

SUMMER 2010

Spoletto Festival USA

May 28 - June 13, 2010. Historic Charleston hosts its 31st Spoleto Festival USA with an array of artistic performances. Opera, jazz, theatre, orchestral, chamber, contemporary music, literary and visual arts fill the theatres and halls of the area during this special two weeks. 843.722.2764 or spoletousa.org.

Piccolo Spoleto

May 28 - June 13, 2010. As the official outreach arm of Spoleto Festival USA, Piccolo Spoleto showcases the Southeast's best artists, writers and performers against the international backdrop of its parent festival, Spoleto. 843.724.7305 or piccolospoleto.com.

The Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Festival

June 5, 2010. Part of the renowned annual Piccolo Spoleto celebration. Learn about the history of the art, engage in sweetgrass basket demonstration, share the experience and enjoy the Gullah Geechee culture. This year, the event will be held at Memorial Waterfront Park in Mt. Pleasant. 843.856.9732 or sweetgrassfestival.org.

Charleston HarborFest

June 18-20, 2010. A true harbor-wide celebration of the sea, attractions feature Tall Ships from around the globe, an authentic pirate camp, wooden boats, children's village, education village, food, music and more. Plus interactive military displays, helicopter rides and aerobatic flight demos. charlestonharborfest.org.

Patriots Point 4th of July Blast

July 4, 2010. *The New York Times* describes the 4th of July Blast at Patriots Point as one of the top five Fourth of July celebrations in the country. An action-packed festival from 4pm-11pm. Live bands, Kidz Zone, delicious food, beverages and adult libations as thousands join in to celebrate the birth of our country and marvel as the night is brought to light with the famous fireworks show at the USS Yorktown! 843.881.5984 or patriotspoint.org.

FALL 2010

34th Annual Fall Tours of Homes & Gardens

September 23 - October 24, 2010. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston. Neighborhood tours of private houses, gardens, churches and public buildings in Charleston's Historic District. Guides provide information on the architecture, decorative arts and historic significance of each property. 843.722.4630 or preservationsociety.org.

27th Annual MOJA Arts Festival

September 23 - October 3, 2010. A 10-day multi-disciplinary arts celebration highlighting the many African-American and Caribbean contributions to Western and world cultures. 843.724.7305 or mojafestival.com.

Taste of Charleston Festival

October 8 -10, 2010. Now, in its 30th year, the Taste of Charleston Festival is a three-day celebration of Lowcountry cuisine. Food, fun, entertainment, contests, chef competitions, music and more food! Charleston's best restaurants offer their house specialties in sample-size portions. 843.577.4030 or visit charlestonrestaurantassociation.com.

Plantation Days at Middleton Place

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 - 17 & November 6 - 7, 2010. A different aspect of plantation life is explored each Saturday domestic activities, African-American traditional arts, early Lowcountry foodways and the plantation natural environment. Regular admission. 843.556.6020 or middletonplace.org.

Nationwide Tour Championship Daniel Island

October 28 - 31, 2010. With one of the largest purses on the Nationwide Tour, the game's future stars try and earn their PGA Tour cards. Only 25 will make it to the next level. Come be a part of the action! 800.677.2293, ext. 1

WINTER 2010-2011

21st Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

November 12, 2010 - January 2, 2011. With two million shimmering lights, this three-mile driving tour brings more and more light displays year after year. Park and explore gift shops, holiday sand sculpture, musical performances, and many more attractions. Groups are welcome and facility rentals are available. 843.795.4FUN holidayfestivaloflights.com.

Christmas in Charleston

December 1-31, 2010. Charleston residents get into the Christmas spirit by decorating historic homes in period fashions, plantations rekindle visions of Christmas past and quaint shops and boutiques offer special value rates that will remind you of years gone by. Many events require little or no fee. 800.774.000 or christmasincharleston.com for a complete schedule and group planning assistance.