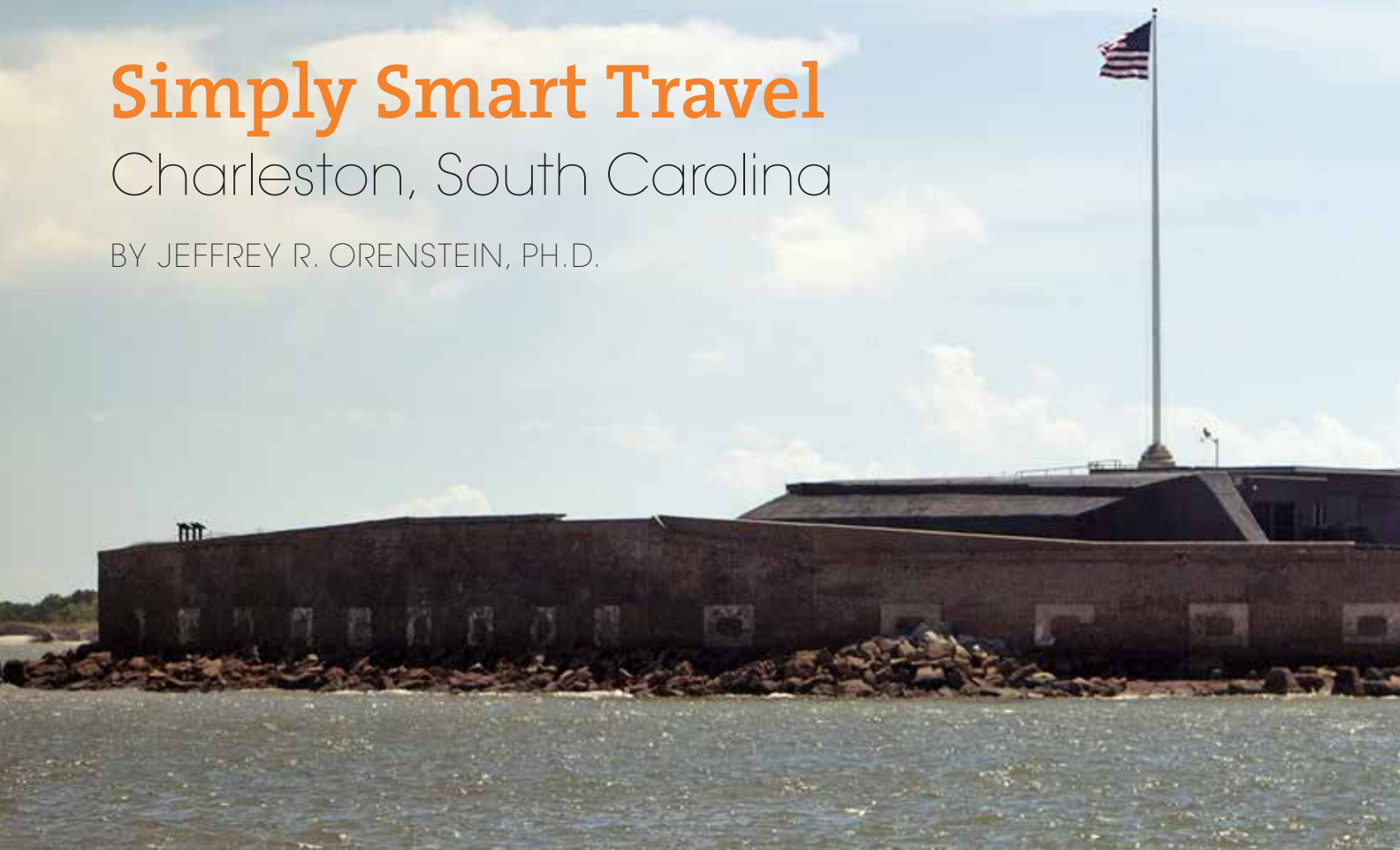


Simply Smart Travel

Charleston, South Carolina

BY JEFFREY R. ORENSTEIN, PH.D.



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Charleston regularly shows up as a highly-preferred destination among smart travelers and consistently scores high in various popular magazine and travel site polls. Based upon our exploration of this gracious and historic Southern city, its reputation is deserved. Whether it is Charleston's rich history, its cotemporary resilience from tragedy, its delightful vestiges of Gullah culture, its panoply of good restaurants, its extensive collections of galleries and museums, its picturesque architecture, its surrounding low country charms or its bustling port, Charleston has a lot to offer. Antebellum mansions, a fabulous historic district, southern cuisine, nearby beaches, a mild climate and generally friendly people combine to make this a good choice for simply smart travelers.



BEFORE YOU GO

- Check www.Charleston.com and www.charlestoncvb.com
- Read a book about the city by Karen White, e.g., *The House of Tradd Street* or *The Girl of Legare Street*.
- Stately Southern mansions line much of the waterfront of Charleston Harbor.



GETTING THERE

- Charleston is easily accessible by plane, train, ship and car.
- Charleston International Airport (CHS) is served by major airlines and is 11 miles away via I-26.
- Many cruise ships make Charleston a port of call.
- The closest Amtrak station is 10 miles away in North Charleston, served by the Palmetto with daily service to New York and Miami.
- By car, the city is on I-26, close to I-95.

- Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the U.S. Civil War were fired, lies in the middle of Charleston Harbor.

- The Embassy Suites hotel in the historic district was the original home of The Citadel in Charleston

Charleston, South Carolina At A Glance

Mobility Level: Brick streets and steps can prove challenging.

When To Go: Weather is good year-round but summers are very hot and humid and frost can happen in January and February. April, May, September and October are good choices.

Where To Stay: The best choice is in the historic district because of its location. Prices are fairly high but worth the proximity to local attractions. The Embassy Suites Historic District is the site of the original Citadel and is close to everything.

Special Travel Interests: U.S. Revolutionary War and Civil War sites, history, Southern cuisine.



• Hand-woven sweetgrass baskets, dating back to Charleston's African-inspired Gullah culture, are sold by craftsmen all over Charleston.

• The Charleston City Market contains an extensive collection of restaurants, local crafts, art and souvenirs that appeals to locals and visitors alike.

WHEN YOU ARE THERE

- Explore the many historic churches and buildings in the city's extensive historic district.
- Learn about the city's history dating back to the 1600s.
- Discover Gullah culture and sweetgrass baskets.
- Enjoy dinner at Halls Steakhouse—pricey but excellent.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE TWO OR THREE DAYS:

Must-sees for a short stay are:

- Touring the historic district (hop-on, hop-off bus recommended)
- The Charleston Harbor Tour (which includes close look at Fort Sumter)
- The historic City Market
- Riding the free trolley on any of the three routes



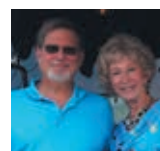
**Ginny O's Tips For Dressing
The Simply Smart Travel Way For Charleston**

Charleston's sense of its history and even a little touch of formality in its environment invites a stylish chic for savvy visitors. If you want to fit into this environment, little extra effort is required. As usual, start with comfortable shoes but instead of matching them with jeans, etc., match them with lightweight slacks and tops for women and maybe business casual slacks and shirts for men.

If you want to add a little more panache, a hat can really dress up a woman's outfit and a casual sport jacket (no tie) can scale up a man's appearance.

IF YOU HAVE SEVERAL DAYS, ENJOY:

- The South Carolina Aquarium
- Touring the city's many historic churches and buildings.
- Exploring the low country along the coast and sampling its distinctive cuisine.



ORENSTEIN IS A SYNDICATED TRAVEL WRITER WHO LIVES ON FLORIDA'S WEST COAST. HE AND HIS WIFE, VIRGINIA, ENJOY SIMPLY SMART TRAVEL AND WRITING ABOUT IT. THEY CAN BE REACHED AT JORENSTEIN@SIMPLYSMARTTRAVEL.COM.

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