



SALTY AIR & SOUTHERN CHARM



THE BRIDE TRIBE GUIDE

Folly Beach + Charleston, South Carolina

A BACHELORETTE WEEKEND

SCAN AS YOU GO



THE MAP

every pin from this guide



THE WEBSITE

full weekend itinerary & RSVPs

Let's Go Get Salty

This weekend is two stops in one: the barefoot, live-music-on-every-corner energy of Folly Beach, and the historic charm + genuinely great food-and-bar scene of downtown Charleston, just 20 minutes up the road. This guide covers both — the can't-miss spots, the local-favorite spots, and the ones worth planning a whole evening around.

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PART ONE

FOLLY BEACH

The Edge of America — barefoot beach-town energy, live music on every corner.

Things To Do



Hit the beach

Widest sand is toward the county park on the south end.



Walk to Morris Island Lighthouse

Park at the county park / beach access and walk the shoreline out. Not open to enter, but it's THE Folly photo — go near sunrise or sunset for the best light.



Walk the Folly Beach Pier

1,045 feet out over the Atlantic. Good for a sunset stroll, cocktail in hand from Pier 101 right on it.



Shark tooth & fossil hunting on Morris Island

Genuinely one of the best spots in the Lowcountry for this — a fun, weird little activity between beach and bar time.



Best Lunch Spots



Lost Dog Café

The Folly institution. 20+ years running, dog-friendly patio, shrimp & grits, great for a late breakfast that bleeds into lunch.



Jack of Cups Saloon

Hidden gem, globally-inspired vegetarian/vegan menu (with meat options). Quirky Folly charm — great if your group has plant-based eaters.



Taco Boy

Charleston staple's Folly outpost; margaritas, street corn, people-watching on the patio. Expect a wait in-season, worth it.



Rita's Seaside Grille

Beachy, oceanview, good mix of seafood + burgers + cocktails. Great for a lunch that turns into afternoon drinks.



Drop-In Deli

Fast, casual, not a whole production between beach sessions.



Best Coffee



Center Street Coffee

The local favorite, right in the middle of everything. Turkish coffee and coconut latte are the move.



Black Magic Café

Full breakfast + strong coffee, good if you want food with your caffeine.



Dolce Banana

Cute, casual, good for a quick pastry + coffee before the beach.

Best Bars



Loggerhead's Beach Grill

The best all-around nightlife spot on Folly. Big indoor/outdoor deck right off the sand, frequent live bands, no cover most nights. The one-stop pick if your group only wants a single Folly bar.



The Washout

The classic Folly beach bar. Open-air, live music most nights — where a Folly night usually starts.



Chico Feo

Outdoor garden bar strung with lights, backyard-party vibe, open mic 'Soap Box' nights.



Bounty Bar

Newer, high-energy, live music several nights a week.



Lowlife Bar

Great cocktails/food, frequent live reggae & acoustic sets.



DO NOT SKIP

The Absolute Can't-Miss List



Bowens Island Restaurant

Non-negotiable. Rustic, no-frills, the freshest oysters and fried seafood you'll have, with a marsh sunset view that's unbeatable. Cash-friendly, picnic-table vibe — the 'we found the real Lowcountry' stop of the trip.



Sunset at Morris Island Lighthouse or the Folly Pier

Build 30 minutes into one evening for this. It's the photo everyone will actually want.



Center Street at night

Even a casual walk down Center Street after dark — live music leaking out of every doorway — is the whole Folly experience in 10 minutes.



PART TWO

CHARLESTON

Cobblestones, church spires, and 350 years of history — 20 minutes up the road.

A Little History First

(so you're not just wandering blind)

Charleston was founded in 1670 by English colonists as “Charles Towne,” named for King Charles II, and quickly became one of the wealthiest, most cosmopolitan port cities in colonial America — built on trade in rice, indigo, and, devastatingly, enslaved labor; nearly half of all enslaved Africans brought to North America came through Charleston's port. That history is layered everywhere: in the Gullah Geechee culture and language still present today, in the historic Black churches and the new International African American Museum, right alongside the antebellum mansions. Charleston also fired the opening shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter in 1861, and endured occupation, earthquake, and — much more recently — a direct hit from Hurricane Hugo in 1989, which the city rebuilt almost building-by-building. That's a big part of why it looks the way it does now: locals have spent 350 years protecting this stretch of cobblestone and wrought iron, and it shows.

MAIN TOURISTY NEIGHBORHOODS, AT A GLANCE

● French Quarter

The postcard — Rainbow Row, galleries, City Market.

● South of Broad

Residential jewel box — mansions & The Battery.

● King Street

The commercial spine — shopping, food, nightlife.

● Cannonborough-Elliottborough

The creative pocket — best coffee in the city.

French Quarter

The historic heart

The most photographed part of the city — Rainbow Row's pastel houses, the City Market, cobblestone alleys, art galleries. It's touristy for a reason: this is Charleston's postcard.

SHOPPING: Charleston City Market (sweetgrass baskets, local art, gifts); gallery-hopping along Broad & Church Streets.

COFFEE: Vintage Coffee Café, Harken Café & Bakery (Queen St).

SIGHTS: Rainbow Row, Waterfront Park & the Pineapple Fountain, Dock Street Theatre, St. Philip's Church.

South of Broad

The residential jewel box

The tip of the peninsula — where the real money lives. Almost entirely residential (no bars or shops), but you walk through it for the architecture and views, not to shop.

SIGHTS: The Battery / White Point Garden, Rainbow Row's southern end, jaw-dropping antebellum mansions on nearly every block.



King Street Corridor

Lower King to Upper King

Charleston's main commercial spine, and it changes personality as you go north. Lower King is the antiques district; Upper King is where the city's food and nightlife scene actually lives — the most restaurant-dense stretch in the city.

SHOPPING: Lower King's antique shops and boutiques; Upper King's mix of local designers and national retailers.

COFFEE: The Daily (652B King St), Kudu Coffee (hidden courtyard just off King).

VIBE: The 'walk and shop and snack all afternoon' neighborhood.

Cannonborough–Elliotborough

The cool, creative pocket

Just off Upper King, this is where the city's independent, artsy energy concentrates — and it's the single best neighborhood for coffee in Charleston, hands down.

SHOPPING: Spring & Cannon Streets — indie boutiques, jewelry (The Tiny Tassel), plant shops, art supply stores.

COFFEE: Babas on Cannon, Sightsee Shop, Second State Coffee, Island Provisions.

VIBE: Locals-favorite brunch and lunch spots, quieter bars — genuinely feels like 'real Charleston.'



Can't-Miss Sights & Activities



Rainbow Row

The pastel houses, obviously — best light in early morning before crowds.



The Battery / White Point Garden

Walk the seawall, harbor views, Fort Sumter in the distance.



Charleston City Market

Historic covered market, sweetgrass basket weavers — a genuine Gullah tradition, worth buying from directly.



Waterfront Park & the Pineapple Fountain

Quintessential Charleston photo spot.



A carriage or walking history tour

Corny-sounding but genuinely the best way to actually absorb the history instead of walking past it.



Fort Sumter boat tour

If anyone's a history person, this is the one 'real activity' worth carving out half a day for.



Charleston Sailing Adventures

BYOB catamaran sunset sail, max 6 people, from the Maritime Center. Dolphins + skyline + golden hour — a great, intimate bachelorette add-on.



Vern's

Michelin-starred, NYT top-50. Book the moment you lock your dates — reservations are genuinely hard to get.

Rooftop & Craft Cocktail Bars



The Cocktail Club

Stylish speakeasy vibe, rooftop garden terrace, serious craft cocktails. A great 'we're getting fancy tonight' stop.



Babas on Cannon

Casual but sophisticated; try the fresh-juiced pomegranate cocktail. Coffee by day, cocktails by night.



The Gin Joint

For the gin lovers in your crew.



Prohibition

Throwback speakeasy, Southern comfort food, good energy.



Citrus Club (The Dewberry)

Arguably the most exclusive rooftop view in the city.



Fiat Lux (Hotel Bennett)

Classy rooftop, sweeping skyline views over Marion Square.



The Rooftop at The Vendue

Harbor + Ravenel Bridge views, great for golden hour.



Pavilion Bar (Market Pavilion Hotel)

Rooftop cascading pool, classic Charleston skyline shot.

The Party Bar Lineup

Live bands, dancing, and real bachelorette-party energy — Charleston's take on a bar crawl.

Henry's On The Market

LIVE MUSIC: Frequent

COVER (FRI/SAT): \$10–20 after ~9pm



The quintessential Charleston party bar — four levels including a rooftop, each its own vibe. Live cover bands nearly every night. Consistently packed with bachelorette groups; expect lines on busy weekends.

Uptown Social

LIVE MUSIC: Often

COVER (FRI/SAT): \$10–20 after ~9pm



One of King Street's biggest nightlife destinations — two floors plus rooftop, multiple bars, live band + DJ combo most nights.

Share House

LIVE MUSIC: Live music & DJs

COVER (FRI/SAT): Usually free; \$5–10 sometimes



Modern coastal party bar, big indoor/outdoor layout, games, patio. Live bands early, DJs later.

Frontier Lounge

LIVE MUSIC: DJs

COVER (FRI/SAT): \$5–10



Nashville-inspired honky-tonk — mechanical bull, country music, themed cocktails, built for group dancing.

On Air Live

LIVE MUSIC: Interactive / live

COVER (FRI/SAT): \$10–20



Multi-level live music / DJ / rooftop venue. Honky-tonk downstairs, house music up top. Better as a later stop.

Charleston Pour House (James Island)

LIVE MUSIC: Nightly

COVER (FRI/SAT): \$15–40, ticketed



Charleston's premier concert venue — indoor + outdoor stage, touring acts almost nightly. Check the calendar before your trip.

BEFORE YOU GO

Practical Notes

-  Folly Beach enforces open-container / public intoxication laws — it's gotten stricter, so keep the good times to bars, decks, and your rental, not the sand.
-  The party-bar strip (Henry's, Uptown Social, Share House, On Air, Frontier Lounge) all cluster around King & Market Streets — an easy walk between them for one big bar-hop night.
-  Bring cash for Bowens Island — it's the kind of place where a \$20 bill and an appetite are all you need.

Can't wait to celebrate with you.

See you on the sand — and then on King Street.

