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# Complete Charleston: A Guide To The Architecture, History, And Gardens Of Charleston



## **Synopsis**

"Complete Charleston" has walking tours of eleven historic neighborhoods plus day trips to Savannah, Beaufort, Georgetown, McClellanville, Brookgreen Gardens and the plantations on the Ashley River. The book also includes a restaurant guide for Charleston, the center of New Southern Cuisine. There are over 400 photographs, an index and a bibliography. The book will introduce you to the history, heroes, eccentrics and ghosts that make Charleston what it is today. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

For independent touring that goes beyond the usual spots, pick up a copy of the excellent "Complete Charleston".... -- USA Today Perhaps "Complete Charleston" should be called "Save Charleston" because that's exactly what its authors intend to do. -- The Charleston Post and Courier Where to walk in Charleston? Nearly everywhere, you'll see, when you pick up the new volume "Complete Charleston." -- Southern Living --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Moores live in Charleston and have produced the only guide to all the neighborhoods of the historic districtthe world-class architecture, sub-tropical gardens and history of America's most historic city. Includes maps, walking tours which coordinate with the local shuttle bus, and cafe information. 300 Photographs.

When Americans consider preservation, they usually think of individual sites where an exceptional event took place, or an exceptional person lived. Rarely do we think about a cityscape - an ensemble of buildings, landscapes, and people - which is preserved just for the beauty of the setting. Charleston is one such place. So are New Orleans, Williamsburg, Annapolis and Savannah, for example. Though this book features individual sites, it is written to give the reader the feeling of place as a whole rather than the sum of parts. I still can't figure out why this book went out of print. This book highlights, in relatively rigorous detail, the very things people come to Charleston to experience: architecture and food. The architecture section is very well done: It's concise and complete, with enough substance to keep the interest of serious historians without turning off cultural tourists. The food section is somewhat shorter, but it features brief descriptions and reviews of about 20 interesting restaurants in Charleston (as they were in 2005), including some of the very best in town. Prospective readers should know that this is not a traditional travel guide, with listings of hotels, shopping, etc..., nor is it a glossy coffee table book of artistic photography. The architectural survey is written as a series of walking tours around the historic districts. Although it is really intended to be a foot companion, there are excursions to the surrounding areas, plantations, colonial churches, and to the lovely cities of Georgetown, Beaufort and Savannah, Georgia. Those chapters are relatively short, as the focus is still very much on Charleston city. All chapters are introduced with simple street maps indicating the locations of the discussed landmarks. The survey of buildings is selective. There are about 400 well-chosen entries from the enormous Charleston building stock, and each entry comes with a very brief descriptive statement, sometimes as much as a short paragraph. About one out of every four entries includes a small monochrome photograph. There are no large color plates in this book, as it is really written to be more informative than entertaining. The book includes many interesting sidebars on special topics, set within the main text of the book. The survey, while far from comprehensive, is a representative sample of houses, churches, public and commercial structures. It's really very well done, and much more accessible to most readers than Jon Poston's older and more academic "Buildings of Charleston." If anything, restoration has accelerated in Charleston since 2005. I hope Ms. Moore will bring us an updated edition sometime soon.

This guide to architecture, history, gardens and now food, is quite simply the best there is. It is well organized and beautifully written. Truman Moore's superb photographs are not just of pretty facades, but of some of the city's most interesting and little known architectural details. The addition of restaurant reviews makes this edition absolutely essential. Margaret Moore is a sharp critic of

good food, but equally sensitive to the ambience of a restaurant. I would go anywhere with them.

A little too in-depth for the casual tourist - and we really like old homes and gardens ! Probably great for architecture or Charleston history buffs. Also, most (95%) of the houses listed are private and not open to the public.

I have mixed feelings regarding this book. It is well written; obviously well researched. I like Charleston-I lived there from 1957-1975; and I majored in History in college and I like restaurants. But, (and you knew that was coming) this book is for architect buffs and foodies who love that old Charleston feeling. So, if you are a first time visitor wanting hotel information, easy to read restaurant reviews, shopping and tour suggestions, look elsewhere. Besides, beauty is in the eye of the beholder-and I would disagree with some of their opinions.

I really thought this would be a prettier book. The black and white photos don't do this book any favors. Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of black and white photography, but it's not what is needed for this guide. Other than that, I can't wait to get started on all the suggested walking tours!

I am an architect, and when my husband and I decided to vacation in Charleston over the holidays I thought this would be the perfect guide book for us. We love buildings, and even own a historic building of our own. Unfortunately, the authors have a somewhat snooty attitude about the newer architecture in Charleston. Okay, fine. If your attitude is that old architecture = good and new architecture = bad, then you'll probably get what you're looking for here. I would only recommend this guide for those who are fascinated by old-south architecture, are staunch preservationists, and who only want to study the older buildings of Charleston.

In 1996, while working on a study entitled "Preserving the World's Great Cities: The Destruction and Renewal of the Historic Metropolis," Peg and Truman Moore asked my advice about architectural guidebooks. So I pulled out my favorites from around the world. One year later, "Complete Charleston" was in print: handsomely photographed, thoroughly researched, smartly written, easy to use. Essential. Now in its third edition, as I lecture across North America, I often refer the Moore's guidebook to local preservation groups in other places. The history of cities is not always apparent-requiring a voice that brings the past to life. "Complete Charleston" accomplishes that task for this singular historic town. And, while fitting comfortably into a jacket pocket, the guide is

nonetheless remarkably thorough: identifying every handsome landmark and lovely garden. In this regard, its survey of important African-American monuments is noteworthy. More than any other place I know, Charleston chronicles in its cityscape the story of Black-Americans up and out of slavery. "Complete Charleston" allows a moving tour of that history. In all, this guidebook makes for a wonderful voyage through a vibrant place, a trip that must be taken by foot because there's so much to see.

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