

Getting around Charleston

SAFETY
Charleston is a great town with lots of great restaurants and historic buildings, but it does have its share of crime. There are also some areas to avoid; staying south of Mary/Morris/Bee St is probably a good idea. (Mary turns into Morris which then jogs slightly and turns into Bee Street). For safe early morning runs I would head south of Calhoun Street.

To and From the Airport:

Shuttle buses run from the taxi stand on the island outside the baggage claim area. They are $15 per person and runs to the downtown hotels. http://www.chs-airport.com/taxi.htm

Taxis are available to share on the ride from the hotel to the airport and should cost around $26 for 2 people. Additional people will cost extra. The concierge at the Francis Marion will make arrangements for you if you like. Information on taxis can also be found on http://www.chs-airport.com/taxi.htm

Yellow Cab  
- www.yellowcab.com  - (843) 577-6565

Charleston Green Taxi  
- www.charleston greentaxi.com  - (843) 819-0846

Williams Limo & Taxi Services  
- www.williams.com  - (843) 744-2294

Charleston Black Cab  
http://www.charlestonblackcabcompany.com/  - (843) 216-2627

Absolute Charleston Taxi Services  
- www.absolutecharleston taxi limousine.com  - (843) 571-7554

Safety Cab Co  
- (843) 722-4066

Charleston Downtown Limo/tropical taxi  
- www.charlestonhospitalitygroup.com  - (843) 723-1111

Top Notch Transportation  
- www.tnltlimoservices.com  - (843) 425-9866

I recommend Charleston Green Taxi (no kickbacks, but they have always shown up on time for me and been courteous, but you have to book in advance because they are popular). http://www.charleston greentaxi.com/

For those of you hankering for the old British Taxis, Charleston Black Cab brought them over from London, and they also tend to be reliable. http://www.charlestonblackcabcompany.com/
**Buses:** There is a bus from the airport to downtown near the visitor’s center. It only runs every hour and takes about an hour to get from the airport to downtown, cars run it in about 20-30 minutes depending on the time of day. If you do decide to take the bus, I recommend that you do not get off until you get to the final stop on Meeting and Mary Streets near the visitors center downtown. The area between the airport and downtown has some less safe areas. http://www.ridecarta.com/routes/routedisplay.aspx?pid=584&nid=589&cid=2013

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**Walking:** The Francis Marion Hotel is in heart of downtown and steps away (literally to a mile) from amazing food and the historic district. So, walking is a great option, though watch your feet as the sidewalks are often made of brick or slate and can be treacherous.

**Taxis/Cabs:** Taxis are hard to flag down in Charleston, sometimes they are everywhere, and sometimes you can’t find a one. The best way to take a taxi is to call for one.

**Buses:** There are several downtown routes (called DASH) that go near the hotel and into the main shopping, eating, and historic districts. This is a good option early, but many of the routes end by 9 pm and some don’t run on the weekends. The DASH buses look like trolleys, are hard to mistake, and tend to stay in the areas with the good restaurants etc. http://www.ridecarta.com/home/default.aspx

**Rickshaws:** Some years ago rickshaws started appearing on the streets and they have become a great way to get around downtown. Because they don’t leave downtown, they are almost always available and can be found by calling for one, or can be just picked up outside some of the more popular hotels and restaurants. They are often pulled by college students and others who know downtown like the back of their hand and are willing to share information. There are a variety of companies.

http://www.charlestonrickshaw.com/ (843) 723-5685
http://www.1charlestonpedicab.com/ (843) 577-7088
http://www.biketaxi.net/ (843) 532-8663

**Renting a bike:**
If you would like to rent a bike to get around here are a few of the available companies; most will deliver a bike to your hotel. Please check with the Francis Marion Hotel about bikes and storage if you want to keep it for an extended amount of time. Charleston has no bike lanes and is not set up for bikes, however, the very slow pace of downtown traffic and the abundance of students biking mean that biking downtown is a feasible and fun way to get around.

http://www.charlestonbicyclecompany.com/bike_rentals.html
https://www.thebicycleshoppecharleston.com/rentals.html
http://www.ctcrentals.com/bike.htm