



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Tailor-Made for the  
National Trust



# Charleston

AN INSIDER'S VIEW  
with John Meffert • March 27–31, 2023

Reflecting Pond at Drayton Hall / Punktoad





### Study Leader

## John Meffert

Historian John Meffert is a longtime proponent of preservation. As former director of the National Trust's Southern Office, he now serves as a consultant on heritage conservation services in his hometown of Charleston, where he has also served as director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, preserving the city's historic resources.

### Charleston: An Insider's View March 27–31, 2023

With its unique antebellum architecture and painstakingly preserved Colonial-era urban core, Charleston is perhaps the most graceful of America's historic cities.

Peeking through the city's countless wrought-iron gates, views of jasmine-covered walls, ornate architectural detailing, and elegant gardens add to the city's Colonial charm. Charleston's many-layered, multicultural population, preserved homes, and historical monuments also speak eloquently, and sometimes painfully, of our nation's history. See Charleston through the eyes of John Meffert, a longtime preservation expert whose insights and camaraderie have captivated countless National Trust travelers.



(left) Lantern Gate / Nick Amoscato and (above) Nathaniel Russell House, Charleston, South Carolina / Tommy Miles



### Charleston Highlights

Go behind the scenes to see special collections at Middleton Place.

Enjoy exclusive access to two of Charleston's most delightful gardens.

# Charleston

## AN INSIDER'S VIEW

with John Meffert  
March 27–31, 2023



**Monday, March 27**

### Arrivals

Upon arrival in Charleston, transfer independently to the elegant landmark Francis Marion Hotel, a member of Historic Hotels of America and your home for the next four evenings. Late this afternoon, join architectural historian and longtime Charleston resident John Meffert for an opening lecture and overview of the days to follow. Following his talk, continue on a casual stroll past several hidden architectural gems taking in the historic charm of South Carolina's cultural jewel. Then toast your arrival in Charleston at a welcome dinner.

*Francis Marion Hotel (D)*

**Tuesday, March 28**

### Charleston's Historic Homes

Depart for a full day of touring the best historic homes in Charleston. Following a short walk along Charleston's Battery, enjoy an in-depth tour of the stately Edmondston-Alston House, one of the city's most splendid dwellings and a classic example of Charleston's changing and sophisticated taste in architecture and

decorative arts. The house, which was built in the late Federal style and later updated with Greek Revival elements is a repository of family treasures, including Alston family silver, furniture, books, and paintings that remain in place where they have been for more than a century. Next, visit the Heyward-Washington House. This brick Georgian-style double house was built in 1772 and houses a magnificent collection of Charleston-made furniture including the priceless Holmes-Edwards bookcase, dating from 1770 to 1775. Following lunch at a popular local restaurant, enjoy a curator-led tour of the Gibbes Museum of Art, home to early American paintings by such renowned American artists as Benjamin West and Thomas Hart Benton, along with contemporary American art and a special exhibition featuring

landscapes of the Hudson River School. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

*Francis Marion Hotel (B, L)*

**Wednesday, March 29**

### Drayton Hall & Middleton Place

This morning, drive to Drayton Hall, a National Trust Historic Site and plantation home that survived the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the earthquake of 1886. The main house, in its near-original condition, is considered one of the finest examples of Georgian-Palladian architecture in the United States, and the grounds represent one of the most significant, undisturbed historic landscapes in America. Continue to Middleton Place. After a stroll through the spectacular gardens, go behind the scenes for a closer look at Middleton family collections during a tour of the historic house. Relax over a lunch featuring classic local dishes like fried chicken, country biscuits, okra gumbo, collard greens, and pecan pie, all while enjoying the spectacular view of the plantation through the glass-paned porch. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

*Francis Marion Hotel (B, L)*

Edmondston-Alston House / Mogollon1



**Thursday, March 30**

## Private Gardens in Charleston

At the Nathaniel Russell House, enjoy a guided tour of the property and its decorative arts collection. Set amid spacious formal gardens, the Nathaniel Russell House is a National Historic Landmark recognized as one of America's most important neoclassical dwellings. The graceful

interior—restored to its 1808 grandeur with elaborate plaster ornamentation and a grand spiral staircase—is among the most exuberant homes ever created in early America. Today, be special guests at two magnificent, historic Charleston gardens opened exclusively for the National Trust. After free time for lunch and independent exploration of the city, rejoin your fellow travelers this evening to bid farewell to Charleston during a memorable

dinner in an exceptional local restaurant.

*Francis Marion Hotel (B, D)*

**Friday, March 31**

## Departures

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer independently to the airport for return flights home.

*(B)*

(below) A Garden Gate, Wrought-iron Window Guard, Wraggborough Lane, Charleston, S.C., / Spencer Means



# Charleston: AN INSIDER'S VIEW

## Tour Information



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

### CHARLESTON: AN INSIDER'S VIEW

**Dates:** March 27–31, 2023

**Tour Cost:**

Land Package ..... \$3,295

Single Supplement ..... \$650

*\*Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

**Activity Level:** Moderate, good overall mobility required.

**Deposit & Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on January 11, 2023 and must be paid by check to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

**Flights:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**Tour Inclusions:** 4 nights at the four-star Francis Marion Hotel; breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, 2 glasses of wine at dinners; access to beautiful private gardens; academic leadership of John Meffert; services of an ISDI tour director; land transportation by private coach; gratuities to local guides and drivers, entrance fees to sites per itinerary; taxes and services; bottled water daily on coach.

**Tour Exclusions:** Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport and hotel portage; airport transfers upon arrival and departure; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler's free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff.

**Terms and Conditions:** Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before January 11, 2023: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between January 12 and February 9, 2023: full refund minus \$1,550 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after February 10, 2023: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or National Trust Tours due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

© 2022-2023 International Seminar Design, Inc.  
CST 2072963-40, WST 603578109

# Charleston: AN INSIDER'S VIEW

## Registration Form



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

---

Full Name Birth Date

---

Full Name Birth Date

---

Address

---

City State Zip

---

Home Phone Mobile Phone

---

E-mail Address (Participant 1) E-mail Address (Participant 2)

### ROOMING OPTIONS: *(please select)*

- Double Occupancy; I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_
  - We prefer separate beds
- Single Occupancy (\$650 single supplement)
  - I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found

### TOUR DOCUMENTS:

ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email to the email address listed above.

- If you wish to receive hardcopy versions of the tour documents by post as well, please check this circle. Paper documents will not be sent to your home address unless this circle is checked.

### DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

\_\_\_\_\_ # of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

- Visa  MasterCard  Check *(make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)*

---

Card Number Exp. (mm/yy)

---

Name as it appears on card Billing Zip Code

### Each participant must sign.

*Registration invalid without signature*

*By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.*

---

Signature 1 / Date Signature 2 / Date

### Complete and return registration form to:

National Trust Tours  
1155 15th Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005  
info@nationaltrusttours.com

### For immediate assistance, you may call:

National Trust Tours at  
888-484-8785 or 202-588-6300