

COLUMBIA, SC



Columbia, South Carolina is the capital and most populous city in the Palmetto State, with a 2005 population in the city proper of 117,508 and the metropolitan population of 689,878. It is the county seat of Richland County, but a small portion extends into Lexington County. Founded in 1786, it was one of the first planned cities in the United States. Located at the confluence of three rivers, Columbia is just downstream from a 50,000-acre recreational lake. You'll find fascinating historical and cultural attractions, a world class zoo, outdoor recreation, festivals, parks and sporting events. Columbia was recently one of 30 communities named "America's Most Livable Communities."

ATTRACTIONS

Fort Jackson:

Located within the city of Columbia is Fort Jackson, the largest and most active Initial Entry Training Center in the United States Army. It provides basic combat training for half of all Army Soldiers and 69 percent of all female Soldiers entering the United States Army. The fort also supports two Advanced Individual Training Schools, the United States Army Soldier Support Institute, the United States Army Chaplain Center and School, the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute, and Drill Sergeant School. Thirty-six hundred active duty soldiers and their family members are assigned to the installation. Several museums are on site and are open to the public. Among them are the **US Army Finance Corps Museum**, the **US Army Chaplain Museum**, and the **US Army Adjutant Corps Museum**. Basic training graduation, a strikingly patriotic event, takes place 41 times during the year on Friday afternoons.



South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum:

This museum focuses on South Carolina military history from the Revolutionary War to the present. A nationally known Civil War flag collection, a significant South Carolina uniform collection, and a growing weapons collection are complemented by a historical archives collection and a 19th and 20th century textile collection. Artifacts from the USS COLUMBIA, a World War II light cruiser named after the city of Columbia that fought in the Pacific theater, are also on display.

Narrated tour of Columbia:

Step back in time and see how the genteel Southern families lived in a by-gone era. The **Woodrow Wilson Family Home** was built in 1872 by President Wilson's parents. It is built in the Tuscan-village style, characterized by arches and bay windows. Thomas Woodrow Wilson spent his teenage years in the house. It opened as a museum in 1932 and houses collections pieces from the 1850-1870s era. The most important object is the birth bed in which Wilson was born on December 28, 1856 in Staunton, VA.



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Built in 1818, the **Hampton-Preston Mansion** was the home of wealthy planter, Wade Hampton, who bought the home in 1823 from its builder Ainsley Hall. Hampton altered the house considerably and designed elaborate gardens that surround the mansion. At his death in 1835, Hampton was reported to be the wealthiest man in the United States. The house served as a Union Army Headquarters in 1865, having survived the burning of Columbia. After a short stint as the governor's mansion, the house became the College for Women and later Chicora College. After being restored, the house was opened in 1970 as an historic house museum.



The **Robert Mills House** was designed by the United State's first Federal architect, Robert Mills. He designed some of the nation's most prominent buildings, including the Washington Monument. Mills was commissioned to design the house by Ainsley Hall (whose former home became the Hampton-Preston Mansion) and reflects the architect's preference for the classical revival style. After coming under many ownerships, including the Presbyterian Church, the home was opened in 1967 as a historic house museum. The collection in the house displays decorative arts of the early 19th century, including American Federal, English Regency, and French Empire pieces.

The **South Carolina State House** has been proclaimed as "one of the most notable buildings of the world." Its Corinthian capitals are said to be "wonderful, nothing finer in France or Italy." Construction began in 1851, but was halted when Sherman's Army burned most of Columbia. Construction later continued with several more interruptions over the years, eventually taking 56 years to complete. The latest renovation came in 1995-98. The grounds of the State House include the Confederate Soldier Monument, the African-American Monument, a replica of the Liberty Bell, and the Spanish-American war cannon.



Housed in the historic 1893 Columbia Mill textile building, our "biggest artifact," the

South Carolina State Museum exhibits the cultural and natural history, as well as science and technology through its many displays. History as told through arts and science is offered in a varied sampling of the wonders of the state and around the world. Exhibits consist of Art, Natural History, Science and Technology, Cultural History, as well as changing and traveling exhibits. The South Carolina State Museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian.



The **University of South Carolina**, located in Columbia, has 350 degree programs and enrolls more than 25,500 students throughout 15 degree-granting colleges and schools. The school has a world-renowned international business program, ranking No. 1 for its undergraduate international business program and No.2 for its graduate international business program in the 2006 US News & World Report. Pictured here is The Horseshoe at USC.



Riverbanks Zoo:

Twice awarded the Governor's Cup for South Carolina's Most Outstanding Tourist Attraction, Riverbanks is home to more than 2,000 animals in one of the nation's most beautiful botanical gardens. The 170-acre site features natural habitat exhibits, scenic river views, spectacular valley overlooks and historic landmarks. The zoo plays host to an array of wild adventures-from a diving expedition on a Pacific coral reef to a safari through the plains of Africa. Exhibits include the following: African Plains, Aquarium/Reptile Complex, Birdhouse, Koala Knockout, Large Mammals, Lemur Island, Ndoki Forest, Sea Lions, Riverbank Conservation Outpost, and Riverbank Farm.

