



CACI Convention/Vacation 2012
Set in Charleston, SC
Nation's "Number One Vacation City"
July 22—28, 2012

The 2012 Convention/Vacation of Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI) is set for the popular vacation city of Charleston, South Carolina from Sunday, July 22 to Saturday, July 28. The region each year attracts more than four million visitors and in October, 2011, Charleston was voted as the Number One Vacation City in the nation by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*, the leading travel magazine. Other cities in the top ten included Boston, Chicago, Colorado Springs, New York City, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Savannah, and Seattle.



Rainbow Row

The region boasts a theme “Where History Lives!” and features sites from both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. In addition, there are many renowned restaurants famous for Southern cooking as well as fresh seafood. You will also find fabulous shopping districts a short distance from our hotel, The Francis Marion (see page 2).

The hotel is located on legendary King Street in the heart of the city’s historic district. Three free city trolley lines make stops near the hotel and take passengers throughout the downtown area.



Francis Marion Hotel Lobby

This year’s convention package includes six nights at the Francis Marion, four hotel banquet dinners prepared by award-winning chefs, a sunset dinner cruise on Charleston Harbor, dances, after hours parties, cocktail parties, receptions, liturgies, and much

more. Because of the wide range of preferences for breakfast menus among CACers (based on feedback from last year) and the high costs of the hotel’s catered menus, breakfast is not included in the package price this year. Both hot and cold buffet breakfasts

are available daily in the hotel restaurant; and various priced and specialty breakfast menus are available in nearby restaurants (including fast food). A Starbucks is located in the hotel. Our convention package cost is just slightly above that of the past two years, even though our convention city is in a much more expensive market; and our hotel is elegantly in a class of its own. On Monday evening, we will have a private sunset dinner cruise around Charleston Harbor, where we will see Fort Sumter, Patriots Point (where the aircraft carrier “Yorktown” is docked), Sullivan’s



Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor



Drayton Hall Plantation (circa 1838)

Island where more than half of the African slaves brought to the US first arrived, plantation sites and the historic Charleston skyline.

Charleston, Where History Lives!

...where tree lined, cobblestone streets wind past antebellum homes, and soaring church steeples watch over the harbor, a city of historical ambiance—as well as 21st century cosmopolitan flair where the New South comes alive!

The Francis Marion, Charleston's "Grand Hotel"....

Named for General Francis Marion, the noted "Swamp Fox" of the American Revolutionary War, the hotel opened in 1924 as the largest and grandest in the Carolinas. Throughout the years, many notable and historic clientele have enjoyed the hotel's full service and convenient location. In the



The Francis Marion

1990's, an extensive multi-million dollar restoration earned the hotel the esteemed National Trust Award for Historic Preservation and the hotel re-opened its doors as Charleston's "Grand Hotel". In recent years, additional modern refurbishments have added to the comforts of today and greatly enhanced the hotel's historic ambiance with sleek room décor reminiscent of the 1920's grandeur. Many of the 12-story hotel's 234 guest rooms and suites offer spectacular views of Charleston's historic harbor, famous church steeples and legendary King Street. Guests can enjoy the hotel's fitness center and spa as well as a wonderful night's sleep surrounded by European-style bedding with overstuffed duvets and down pillows. Rooms feature marble bathrooms with pedestal sinks and brass fixtures. A professional concierge, situated in the classic lobby with its large chandeliers, can guide you to the world-class restaurants, antique shops and boutiques, antebellum homes and magnificent gardens near the hotel. The downtown's three free trolley routes all stop near the hotel's main entrance. The city's large Visitors Center is within walking distance of the hotel.

Airlines serving Charleston airport include American, Continental, Delta, United, US Air and Southwest. Direct flights are available from Chicago (Midway and O'Hare), Detroit, Atlanta, Newark, New York (LaGuardia), Washington, DC (Dulles and National) and Baltimore (BWI). Connecting flights are available from throughout the U.S. Charleston is also served by **Amtrac** as well as by major interstate highways.

This year, there are no organized pre- or post-convention activities scheduled. However, a limited number of rooms are being held at the Francis Marion Hotel at a special pre-convention rate for those who wish to arrive early and explore the city and region on their own. The official **Visitors Guide** published by the Charleston



Dinner Cruise on Charleston Harbor

Area Convention and Visitors Bureau contains a wealth of information on attractions and accommodations in such nearby locations as Folly Beach, Isle of Palms, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, Sullivan's Island, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant in addition to the city of Charleston.

Copies of the 200-page **Visitors Guide** have been distributed at many CACI functions during the past year and free copies are available by phoning the Bureau at 800-774-0006 or email at "explorecharleston.com".



Free Downtown Trolley

Helpful Web Sites to Visit

Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau — www.charlestoncvb.com

The Francis Marion Hotel — www.francismarionhotel.com

Boone Hall Plantation — boonehallplantation.com

Middleton Place Plantation — www.middletonplace.org

Patriots Point — patriotspoint.org

Drayton Hall Plantation — draytonhall.org

Mepkin Abbey — mepkinabbey.org

Fort Sumter — www.nps.gov/fosu

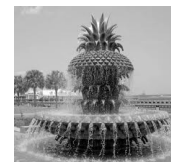
Yorktown — www.hnsa.org/ships/yorktown.htm

Exciting Convention Tours

'Discover Charleston Downtown' - Discover the history and unique sites located in downtown Charleston on this guided tour, including the Battery, Rainbow Row, the Pineapple Fountain, slave markets, the harbor, the shopping districts, the "City Market" area, the city's many historic inns, and the local seafood eateries. Learn the origins of the stones on the city's many cobblestone streets. See landmarks from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Sunday—Board bus at 11:15 AM, Depart at 11:30 AM, Return at 1:30 PM.

Tuesday—Board bus at 9:45 AM, Depart at 10:00 AM, Return at 12 Noon.



'The Aircraft Carrier "Yorktown" and the National Medal of Honor Museum' -



Drive to Patriots Point to tour the famed US Navy Aircraft Carrier 'Yorktown'. The ship is almost three football fields long and as high as a ten-story building. Learn how it operated with a crew of nearly 3,000 sailors and airmen. It was launched in 1943 and participated significantly in the Pacific campaign in World War II. It supported American troops in the Philippines, at Iwo Jima and Okinawa and in the Marianas. She received 11 Battle Stars and a Presidential Unit Citation for her WWII service. She also participated in the Vietnam conflict where she earned five Battle Stars. An elevator is available to take guests to the hangar deck level. The National Medal of Honor Museum is located on the Yorktown.

Tuesday—Board bus at 9:00 AM; Depart at 9:15 AM; Return at Noon.

'A Day on the Ashley' -

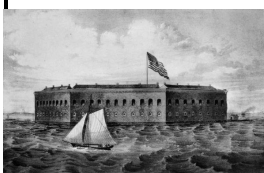
Enjoy a day visiting Charleston's most historic Ashley River plantations, Drayton Hall and Middleton Place, and enjoy an authentic Low Country lunch. At Drayton Hall, our guides will share the history of the oldest preserved plantation house in America that is open to the public. Explore the connections between Africans, Europeans and Americans who lived and worked here. Begun in 1738, the plantation house is considered one of the nation's finest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture. At Middleton Place, we are invited to experience daily life on an 18th century plantation. Begun in 1741 by Henry Middleton, president of the First Continental Congress, and his son Arthur, one of the three South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence, this National Historic Landmark has been called "the most interesting and important garden in America" by the Garden Club of America. The 65 acres of sweeping vistas, intimate garden rooms and ornamental ponds made Middleton Place the most unique and grand garden of its time. A tour of the House Museum with rare family possessions introduces us to the family; and African-American life can be explored at a freedman's cabin, a slave chapel and in the stable yards.



Wednesday—Board bus at 8:15 AM; Depart at 8:30 AM; Return 5:00 PM.

'Fort Sumter National Monument' -

A bus will take us to our departure point for a tour of the National Park Service's Visitor Education Center where we will board for a voyage to the Fort. In 1861, South Carolina had seceded from the Union, yet Union forces still occupied Fort Sumter at the entrance to Charleston Harbor. On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops from nearby Fort Johnson fired on Fort Sumter—the start of a two-day bombardment that resulted in the surrender of Fort Sumter by Union troops and the start of the Civil War. In the last two years of the war (1864-1865), the fort experienced one of the longest sieges in modern warfare by Union troops, and Confederate troops finally evacuated February 17, 1865. Union troops had fired more than 46,000 shells at the fort to capture it back from the Confederates.

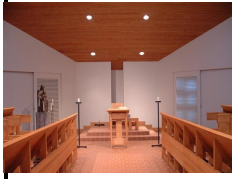


Thursday—Board bus at 8:15 AM; Depart at 8:30 AM; Return at Noon.

'Mepkin Abbey and Boone Hall Plantation' -

See Page 4 for description

'Mepkin Abbey and Boone Hall Plantation' -



The abbey is located on land that for more than three centuries was a rice and later cotton plantation. In 1936, it was purchased by Henry Luce, the publisher of *Time* and *Life* magazines. His wife, Clare Boothe Luce, was a former U.S. diplomat who commissioned and built an extensive garden on the property. In 1949, the Luces donated a large part of the property to the Trappist Order's Gethsemani Abbey for the establishment of a new abbey. The Luces are buried on the abbey grounds. We will be able to visit the abbey's unique gift shop and bookstore, have a guided tour of part of the abbey and the church and then join the monks for noon prayers. We will then travel to Boone Hall Plantation where we will enjoy a special box lunch. With more than 740 acres, Boone Hall is America's oldest working plantation as well as "America's Most Photographed Plantation." It was originated as a land grant from King George II in 1681. The Boone family became active in the Revolutionary War, supplying cattle for our troops. John, the son of Sarah Boone Rutledge, grew up to become Governor of South Carolina and author of parts of the U.S. Constitution. His brother Edward was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The two stunning 3/4 mile rows of 250-year-old trees that grace the entrance are one of the most breathtaking views in the nation. "Slave Street" identifies nine original 1790 brick slave cabins where artifacts from the cabins are on display. We will also be able to experience the Gullah Theatre's depiction of the culture created by the African slaves.



Friday—Board bus at 9:00 AM; Depart at 9:15 AM; Return 5:00 PM.

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