Headline: Beauty, charm, history define Charleston

Deckhead: South’s finer attributes can be found in South Carolina town

Charleston is considered one of the prettiest towns in the South. It blends magnificence with charm to create a delectable recipe.

Character and charisma help build a winner that attracts thousands of travelers annually. It’s historic and humble, and bold and most definitely beautiful.

Alfred Hutty, a 20th-century artist and considered to be one of the leading figures of the Charleston Renaissance, perfectly described the city in a wire sent to his wife.

It read: “Come quickly, have found heaven.”

Charleston’s Holy City cobblestone streets are hundreds of years in age and only eight remain. They’re comprised of stones used to weigh down ships that didn’t carry enough cargo. They symbolize Charlestown’s rich history.

Chalmers Street grabs the most attention. Nestled in the French Quarter, it’s the most photographed cobblestone road in the city. Rumors swirled that ride on the rockiest road caused pregnant women to go into labor. Thus, labeling it Labor Lane.

South of Broad sits Adger’s Wharf. A well-known cobblestone way, the once-busy dock is a shortcut to the harbor and Waterfront Park.

Alexander Gillon’s fame originates from the Revolutionary War. He served as commodore of the South Carolina navy and Gillon Street honors his past. Gillon founded Charleston’s Chamber of Commerce, which today is the oldest in the United States.

Longitude Lane doesn’t garner much attention, but it might hold the most splendor. Sharing the appearance of an alley, it’s a path that leads to a narrow street with a handful of old homes.

The cobblestone roads are paths to Charleston’s antiquity that includes the site where the first shot was fired during the Civil War. Pendleton House Museum was built in 1755, and Boone Hall Plantation has been growing crops more than three centuries. Both are open to visit and satisfy the appetites of the most serious history buffs.

Visitors also can tour the Charleston Jail, the Spirits of Magnolia Cemetery, USS Yorktown – where ghost stories are told – antebellum homes and much more.

Charleston’s deep roots, however, spread beyond its history. The town offers entertainment for visitors.

Its pristine beaches are among the South’s finest. Comprised of Kiawah Island, Folly Beach, Sullivan’s Island, Isle of Palms and Seabrook Island, each offers an eclectic list of activities from fishing, kayaking, sailing, kiteboarding, bicycling or just lying on the beach.

Wild Dunes Resort is rated among the best golf courses in South Carolina. Located at Isle of Palms, the course rests near the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Magnificent views and manicured greens should entice the most avid golfers. It offers vacation rentals, condos and cottages for those interested in a golf getaway.

The shopping district and beauty spas provide a getaway from the beach, and dining and nightlife include fresh seafood restaurants, rooftop bars, breweries and Deep Water Vineyard – Charleston’s only winery that provides tastings and nearly 50 acres to explore.

Charleston, no doubt, lives up to its reputation. The path to its amenities might be bumpy, but it’s well worth the trip.

Heaven awaits. Don’t miss an opportunity to visit.

Cutline: SOUTHERN COMFORT – Boats sail in Charleston Harbor in the background of Pineapple Park Fountain. Image: Matthew. Adobe Stock.