



CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA



Charleston is the center for the state government of West Virginia with a metro population of around 400,000. It is a city on the banks of the Kanawha River that blends historic architecture and contemporary lifestyles. One can meander through a renovated home of the early 1800's or enjoy the more modern side of urban living through the eclectic mixture of businesses on revitalized Capitol Street.

Fast Facts:

- The first brick street in the world was laid in Charleston on October 23, 1870 on Summers Street.
- The earliest industries in Charleston were the salt and natural gas industries.
- Charleston is home to The University of Charleston, West Virginia State University, The Graduate Campus of Marshall University, The Charleston Campus of West Virginia University and West Virginia Junior College.
- Interstates I-64, I-79 and I-77 intersect in Charleston.
- The city features the newly renovated Charleston Civic Center and more than a dozen hotels, making it a large draw for conventions, sporting gatherings as well as big-name celebrity appearances.
- The Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia is located in Charleston.
- At the Capitol Complex, the Culture Center opened in 1976 to showcase historic West Virginia culture, artists, and heritage. It contains the State Museum, State Archives Library and State Historic Preservation Office.
- Charleston is home to several festivals...including the Vandalia Gathering, FestivALL, Live on the Levee, Symphony Sunday, the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta and countless other community gatherings.
- There are many notable companies headquartered in the Charleston area including several utilities, banks, and manufacturers.
- Shoney's Restaurants were founded in Charleston.
- The National Public Radio program Mountain Stage was founded in Charleston in 1983.
- Charleston is home to the Charleston Dirty Birds of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball.
- The Capitol Market is a staple location in Charleston featuring vibrant indoor-outdoor retail, dining and has become a year 'round social hub.

