



## Climate: Charleston Metro Area, South Carolina

### Spectacular Weather:

The climate of the Charleston region is "temperate to subtropical." With an average of 63% days of sunshine and an average growing season of 294 days every year, the Charleston area offers an outstanding climate that allows year-round enjoyment.

### Spring:

The Spring season is the most spectacular time of the year in the area. There are rapid changes from windy and cool in March to warm and pleasant in May. Average temperatures range from 58 to 72 degrees. Azaleas, dogwoods and other Spring garden flowers bloom in abundance throughout the region from early March into early June.

### Summer:

Summer in the Charleston area is warm and humid. The average monthly temperature ranges from 78 to 82 degrees, with average daily maximum temperatures of 88 to 91 degrees and temperatures above 100 degrees infrequent. The area's coastal location causes a cooling effect, making average temperatures often several degrees cooler than temperatures inland. Summer is the area's rainiest season with 37% of total rainfall occurring during this period. However, rain normally occurs as summer showers or thunderstorms.

### Fall:

The Fall season begins with continued warm weather with pre-winter cold spells occurring by late November. Temperatures average from 76 degrees in September to 58 degrees by November. From late September to early November, the weather is mostly sunny and temperature extremes are rare. Late Summer and early Fall are the period of maximum threat to the South Carolina coast for hurricanes.

### Winter:

Winter in the Charleston Metro area starts in December and runs through February. Winter is normally mild with periods of rain and a slight chance of snow flurries in late December and early January. During the winter, daily temperatures average between 48 and 51 degrees. With an average occurrence of the first freeze occurring in early December and the last freeze in late February, temperatures of 20 degrees or less are very infrequent.

### Averages:

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Temperature (°F)	47.9	50.7	57.7	64.2	72.1	78.2	81.7	80.5	76.1	66.2	58	50.5	65.3
Relative Humidity (%) (7 a.m.)	83	82	83	84	85	86	88	90	90	89	87	84	86
Relative Humidity (%) (1 p.m.)	55	53	50	49	53	59	62	63	62	56	53	55	56
Precipitation (inches)	4.08	3.08	4	2.77	3.67	5.92	6.13	6.91	5.98	3.09	2.66	3.24	51.53

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Climatic Data Center

CLIMATOLOGICAL FACTS	
Latitude:	32° 54' N
Longitude:	80° 02' W
Average Temperatures:	
Daily Maximum:	75.9
Daily Minimum:	54.7
Average:	65.3
% Possible Sunshine:	63%
Heating degree days:	2005
Cooling degree days:	2306
Average Precipitation:	51.53 inches
Avg. Relative Humidity(7 a.m.):	86%
Wind:	
Prevailing Direction:	SSW
Main speed (MPH):	8.6

*Prepared by: Center for Business Research, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2006.*