

## CHARLESTON, SC Sept 29 – Oct 1, 2017

## Three Coastal Walks in the Best City in the US and Canada

For the fifth year in a row, readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine named Charleston the Best City in the US and Canada. In addition, the Holy City was tabbed as the second-best city in the world!

Join the Asheville Amblers as we take in the sights of this historic city during three unique walks the last weekend of September. When we aren't walking we'll be enjoying great companionship and food.

We've made arrangements to stay at the Clarion Inn,310 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd, Mt Pleasant (just across the bridge from Charleston) for \$116 plus tax. We have 10 rooms reserved under Bob Crosby's name confirmation #545058066. To make your reservation under this, call the Clarion at 623-432-0769. Be sure to tell them you want a room under Bob Crosby and the above confirmation number. There is a 24-hour cancellation policy. Hot breakfast is included.

Plans are as follows:

Friday Sep 29 - travel day with informal meeting for supper

## Saturday Sep 30

- 8:30 AM registration at Start Point and 9 AM step off on the Historic Charleston Walk
- 2:00 PM Ravenel Bridge walk or spend the whole day in Charleston
- 6:30 PM Meet for dinner at one of Charleston's great restaurants

<u>Sunday Oct 1</u> - check out in time to meet and register for the Magnolia Plantation Walk at 10 AM. After walk, return home

The registration for both Historic Charleston and Ravenel is Hampton Inn-Historic Charleston, 345 Meeting Street. Parking in the Visitor's Center lot across John St from hotel is recommended. Parking garage also available on other side of Visitor Center from hotel.

Registration for Magnolia is Snack Shop just inside the entrance to the plantation house.

Charleston is a stroll on sidewalks, cobblestones and stone paths. You'll walk through the Historic District, White Point Gardens, the Market area with its myriad of vendors and through the College of

Charleston. You can, if desired easily spend a whole day on this one. There are 5/10 KM options, both rated 1A. There is an "A" award for this walk.

Ravenel is a stroll on sidewalks and across the bridge on a dedicated walkway. You'll see spectacular views of Charleston and the waterfront, Mount Pleasant, the ships at Patriots Point - and view the bridge from a park under the bridge. There are 6/12 KM options (6 KM goes to middle of bridge), both rated 2A.

Magnolia is a tour of a 50-acre garden with over 900 camellias and 250 azaleas plus hundreds of other flowering species blooming year-round. It also includes a walk through Audubon Swamp Garden where you'll see a typical black water cypress and tupelo swamp complete with gators. See large groups of shore birds along the banks of the Ashley River. Cost to get in is \$20 but we are working on getting a coupon.

For More Information:

Dennis Michele: dmichblue@aol.com or 828-628-4343

Bob Crosby: bob\_crosby@comcast.net

Directions to Clarion Inn:

The hotel is located in Mount Pleasant at the corner of Highway 17 and McGrath Darby Blvd. If traveling from the south, follow Highway 17 North to the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. If traveling from I-26 East, merge right at Exit 220 onto Highway 17 North toward Mt. Pleasant and onto the Arthur Ravenel Bridge. As you cross the bridge, travel in the far-left lane and turn left on McGrath Darby, the first intersection as you exit the bridge. If traveling on 17 South, stay straight until reaching the last traffic light prior to the Ravenel Bridge. Turn right on McGrath Darby, and make the first right into the hotel's parking lot.

