

The Ultimate Guide to:

COLUMBIA SOUTH CAROLINA

10

COLUMBIA
BUCKET
LIST
ITEMS

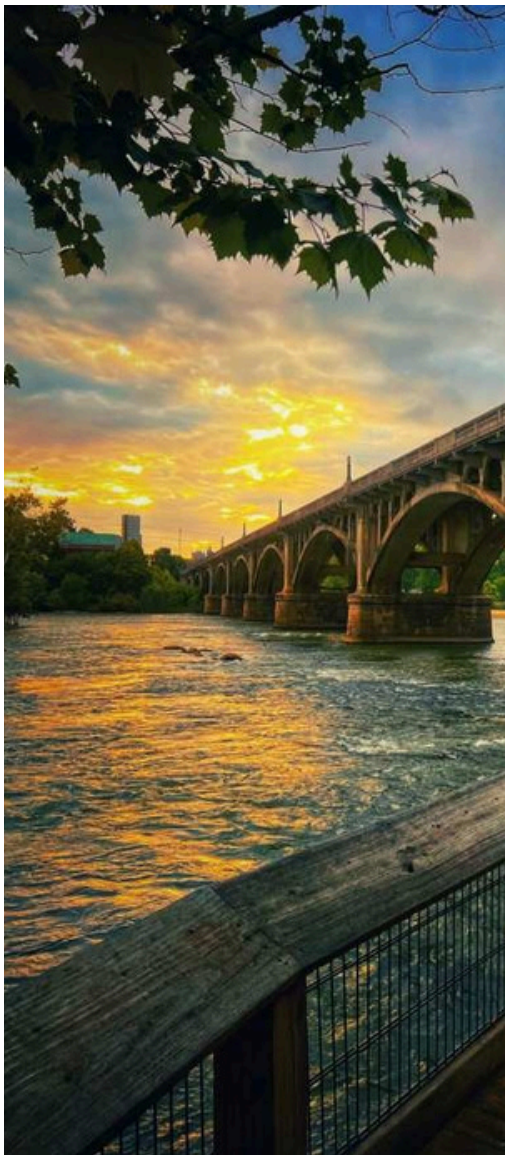
AREA
INSIGHTS

SODA CITY
THE BEST PLACE
TO CALL HOME

Alivia Cavanaugh
Real Estate

So, you want to know more about Columbia, SC?

YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!



Welcome to **Your Ultimate Guide to Columbia,** South Carolina!

Hey there — I'm Alivia Cavanaugh, and I am SO excited you're here!

Whether you're planning a quick visit, scoping out a potential new hometown, or somewhere in between — consider this your insider's guide to one of the most underrated, underestimated, and absolutely wonderful cities in the South.

I grew up right here in the Midlands and I'll be honest — I used to think everyone had what we have. Turns out, they don't. And the longer I've lived here, the more obsessed I've become with this place we get to call home.

I've spent over four years as a top real estate agent in the Columbia area, helping over 90 families find their perfect corner of this city — and along the way I've discovered the best spots to eat, drink, explore, and make memories.

This guide is everything I wish someone had handed me, and everything I now hand to every single client who asks "so... what's Columbia actually like?"

Alivia Cavanaugh

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Your Local Guide

Q: What do you love about Columbia?

A:

Have you ever visited a place and it immediately felt like somewhere you could spend the rest of your life? Well- That's Columbia for me. I moved here in my adolescent years and was raised in Columbia. I truly believe that it is the perfect place to call home if you are looking for a true "city-feel" with a small town vibe in one of the most affordable areas in South Carolina. Columbia is the state's capital and home to The University of South Carolina. The area is filled with young professionals, business owners, college students, and families that enjoy a slower, downtown lifestyle. Columbia was recently ranked one of the top cities in the US for overall growth and that is evident throughout the city as new breweries, upscale bars, and apartments are being built. I have always had a special place in my heart for first-time home buyers. Due to the extremely affordable housing market, Columbia is a great place for many young Gen Z buyers, as well as seasoned investors. While there is a luxury market in downtown Columbia, most choose to live just outside of the city along the river or in the neighboring towns surrounding Lake Murray!

Alivia Cavanaugh



Raised in Lexington SC

Helped 100+ Families Buy/Sell

Older Sister of 2

Yorkie Momma

Loyal Gamecock Fan (Always)

Tequila Drinker

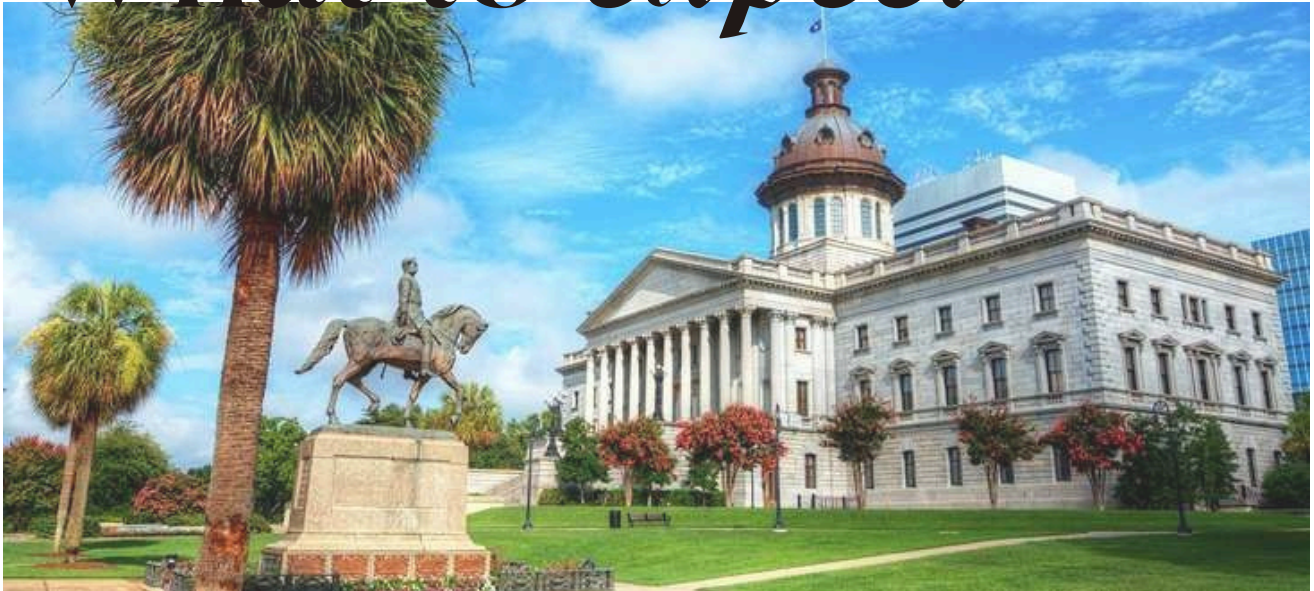
Live Music Fan

HUGE People Person

Sports Lover

Always in the Sun

What to *expect*



Columbia, SC

WHAT IS IT KNOWN FOR

Columbia is the capital of South Carolina and located in the center of the state. Columbia is home to The University of South Carolina Gamecocks, a majority of the state's government, small business owners, fortune 500 companies and over 800,000 residents. The city is filled with history as Columbia is the the first planned city in the US!

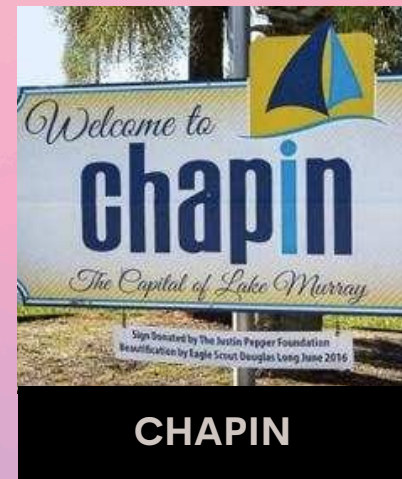
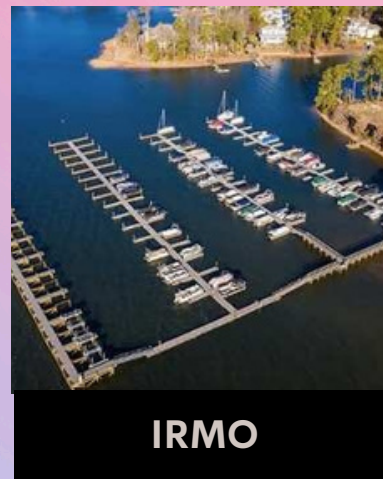
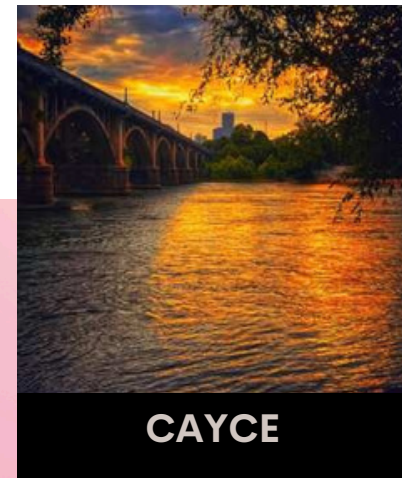
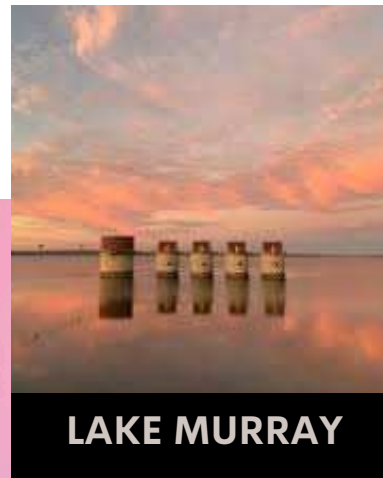
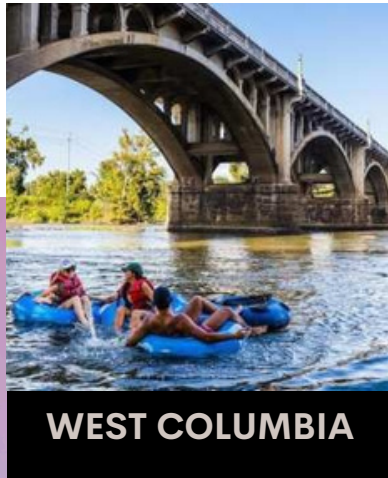
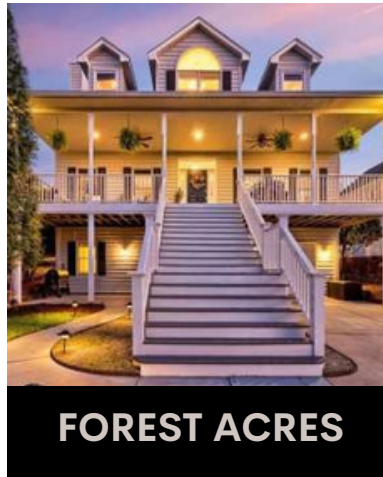
HISTORY

Founded in 1786, Columbia was not always the capital of South Carolina but the capital was relocated to Columbia due to its central location serving both inland and coastal residents. Columbia played a vital role in the Civil War. Today, the city has turned into a hub for government, education (The University of South Carolina) and commerce.

ARCHITECHTURE

Columbia's architecture showcases a diverse tapestry of styles reflecting its rich history with a mix of antebellum style homes in Forest Acres, Georgian and Victorian style homes in Arsenal Hill, and traditional double front porch, Charleston- style homes in Elmwood Park.

Columbia + Surrounding *Neighborhoods*



Columbia + Surroundings

BucketList

ALI VI A'S TOP 10



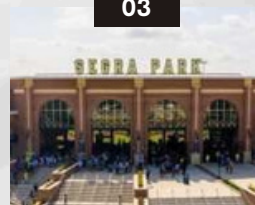
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Eat at a waterfront restaurant on Lake Murray



02

Visit the Soda City Market on Main Street



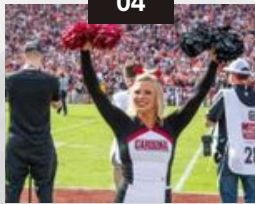
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Go to a Fireflies game at Segra Park



05

Watch the Purple Martins at Bomb Island on Lake Murray



04

Spend a Saturday in South Carolina at Williams Brice Stadium



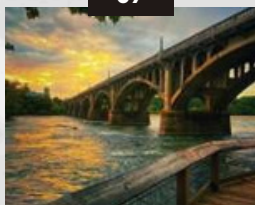
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Visit one of the top rated zoos in the country-Riverbanks Zoo & Garden



08

Bring your pup to Yappy Hour @ Jakes Bar + Grill



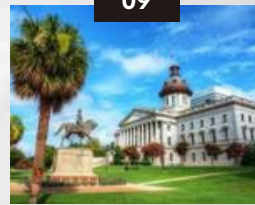
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Visit Riverfront Park at Sunset



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Float the Congaree/ Broad/ or Saluda River



09

Visit the South Carolina State House

Points of *Interest*

RESTAURANTS

- 1** -Halls Chophouse
- 2** -Coa Cocina
- 3** -Backstreets Grill
- 4** -Home Team BBQ
- 5** -Crave Artisan Market
- 6** -Mr. Friendlys
- 7** -Savage Craft Ale Works
- 8** -Market on Main
- 9** -Mediterranean Tea Room
- 10** -Cantina 76
- 11** -Za's Pizzeria

GROCERY

- 12** -Publix
- 13** -Whole Foods
- 14** -Trader Joe's
- 15** -Lowe's Foods

SHOPPING

- 16** -Devine District
- 17** -Trenholm Plaza
- 18** -Shoppes at Five Points
- 19** -Crosshill Market

FITNESS

- 20** -OrangeTheory Fitness
- 21** -Strom Thurmond Center
- 22** -Chosen Uno Training
- 23** -Studio Fire
- 24** -MUV Fitness
- 25** -Planet Fitness

COFFEE

- 26** -Curiosity Coffee Bar
- 27** -Azalea Coffee Bar

28 -Piecewise Coffee

29 -Drip Coffee

GREAT OUTDOORS

- 30** -NOMA Bark Park
- 31** -Columbia Canal & Riverfront Park
- 32** -Williams Brice Stadium
- 33** -USC Horseshoe
- 34** -Congaree River
- 35** Saluda River

SPORTS & RECREATION

- 36** -Colonial Life Arena
- 37** -Williams Brice Stadium
- 38** -Founders Park
- 39** -Segra Park

EDUCATION

- 40** -University of South Carolina
- 41** -University of South Carolina Law
- 42** University of South Carolina School of Medicine

HEALTHCARE

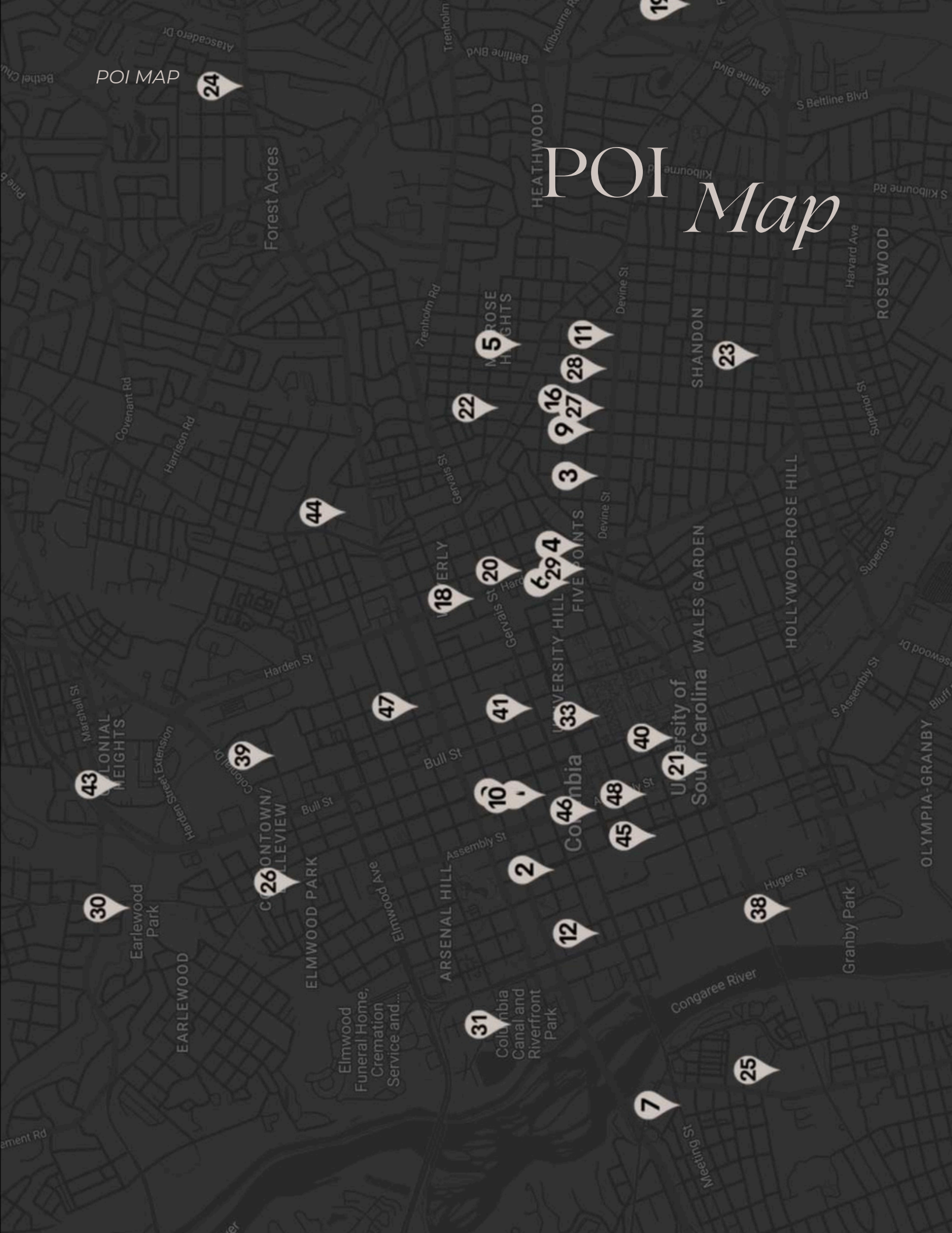
- 43** -Prisma Health Richland
- 44** -MUSC Health Columbia

ENTERTAINMENT

- 45** -Colonial Life Arena
- 46** -The Senate
- 47** -The Township Auditorium
- 48** -Koger Center for Performing Arts

POI MAP

POI Map



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5 ROSE HIGHTS

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18 EARLY

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Events in Columbia



SODA CITY

Every Saturday morning on Main Street. Tons of vendors, food trucks, artists, and more!

📍 Main Street, SC



FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

Over 60+ restaurants in Columbia participate and showcase their top dishes, drinks, and desserts!

📍 Columbia, SC



ST. PAT'S IN FIVE POINTS

One of the largest St. Pats festivals in the southeast. Music Fest, parade, and bar crawls!

📍 Five Points, SC



HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON THE RIVER

The Midland's largest drive-thru light show at Saluda Shoals Park!

📍 5605 Bush River Rd
Columbia, SC



LAKE MURRAY 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

South Carolina's largest firework show display at two locations!

📍 Lake Murray, SC



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR

Multiple week event with rides, concerts, vendors, food & more!

📍 South Carolina Fairgrounds

Restaurants in Columbia

Depending on your taste, there is a restaurant for everyone in

Columbia, SC! These are a few of my favorite places around town.



SAVAGE CRAFT ALE WORKS

Brewery atmosphere with rooftop seating and also serves cocktails! They have a wide variety of food ranging from bar food to lobster rolls!

📍 430 Center St West Columbia, SC 29169



CANTINA 76

A columbia favorite-Cantina 76 is a great spot for margaritas, tacos and a trio! Pro-tip: Switch out the salsa or guacamole for bean dip!

📍 Devine Street or Main Street Columbia, SC



NOMA BISTRO BY AL AMIR

Our weekly go-to for mediterranean food! Delicious hummus, gyros, wraps, bowls, pasta dishes, and brick-oven pizza!

📍 2431 Main Street, Columbia SC 29201



HALLS CHOPHOUSE

The best overall experience/ atmosphere in Columbia if you are looking for an upscale dining option. Everything is delicious, but the Hall's Chop Salad is a must!!

📍 1221 Main Street, Columbia SC 29201



JACK BROWN'S BURGER JOINT

A burger topped with mac and cheese + BBQ chips, side of sweet potato fries.... thank me later. Causal burger joint but a must try spot!

📍 711 Harden Street, Columbia SC 29205

Brunch Spots in Columbia

From bottomless mimosas to good ole country cooking- there is a breakfast spot for everyone!



DIPRATO'S

French toast, pancakes, omelets, egg benedict and the full lunch menu makes Diprato's a top Columbia brunch spot! The potato cheese casserole is amazing!!

📍 342 Pickens Street, Columbia SC 29205



CAFE STRUDEL

Locally owned with a constant line out of the door- if you go you'll know why! They were featured in Southern Living for their hangover hashbrowns. It's a must try!

📍 300 State Street, West Columbia SC 29169



THE GOURMET SHOP

Adorable little shop and restaurant with a delicious brunch, a variety of cheeses, wines, gourmet soups and sandwiches! Atmosphere is amazing!

📍 724 Saluda Avenue, Columbia SC 29205



THE DEVINE CINNAMON ROLL DELI

Choose between a HUGE gourmet cinnamon roll for breakfast, or order an entree that comes with a mini cinnamon roll. Both are good options- can't go wrong!

📍 2617 Devine Street Columbia, SC 29205



HENRY'S BAR AND GRILL

If you are looking for huge portions of delicious food, look no further- Henry's is the one! The chicken fried chicken & cheesy hashbrowns is a crowd favorite!

📍 2865 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205

Best Pizza Slice in Columbia

You can never judge a person by their favorite spot for pizza, but it does say a lot about a person. Here are my personal favorites spots in town! BTW- pineapple belongs on pizza!



VILLAGE IDIOT PIZZA

With 3 locations in Columbia, it is obviously a crowd favorite! Great pizza joint atmosphere with daily deals and pizza by the slice! BOGO free whole pizza on Wednesdays!

📍 Devine Street, Forest Drive, Whaley Street



ZA'S PIZZERIA

Delicious brick oven pizza & pasta spot with a great atmosphere. On Wednesday, they have live music and \$5 glass of wine night!

📍 2930 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205



DANO'S

One of Columbia's pizza staples having been in business for over 20 years, Dano's is a go-to spot for a quick bite. The pizza is also super affordable & delicious!

📍 3008 Rosewood Dr, Columbia SC 29205



IL FICOLARE PIZZERIA

A must try!!! All of their pizzas are 13', made to order and baked in their wood-fired oven. Arguably a more "fancy" pizzeria but one of the best in town!

📍 2150 Sumter St. Columbia SC 29201



IL BUCATO

A strictly carry out concept with no delivery/ no dine-in options available. It is one pizza place you will love to enjoy from your house with a variety of pizzas, salads, and sandwiches to choose from!

📍 1615 N Beltline Blvd, Columbia SC 29206

Date Night Spots in Columbia

From fancy mexican to espresso martinis- these are my go-to date night spots around town!



HALL'S CHOPHOUSE

If you are looking for a fine dining experience accompanied by views of the State House, top notch service, and a delicious dinner with wine pairings- look no further.

📍 1221 Main St #150, Columbia, SC 29201



PASTA FRESCA

A go-to date night spot. Pasta Fresca does italian like no one else in town. Huge portions, affordable prices, and a wide variety of dishes! A must try!

📍 4722 Forest Dr, Columbia, SC 29206



SALUDA'S

In the heart of Five Points, Saluda's provides an upscale dining experience with their own "twists" on classic southern dishes. The menu is always changing!

📍 751 Saluda Ave, Columbia, SC 29205



IL GIORGIONE

Arguably the best Italian food in Columbia and a great date nightspot! They're always crazy busy and it's a small intimate restaurant, so I definitely recommend getting a reservation!

📍 2406 Devine Street, Columbia SC 29205



COA

My vote for best margarita in town!! Coa is the ultimate date night spot in the Vista if you are looking for an upscale mexican cuisine and tequila lounge.

📍 823a Lady Street, Columbia SC 29201

Best Happy Hours in Columbia

in town and these are my go-to spots to grab a drink!



ZA'S ON DEVINE

A \$5 glass of wine and a brick oven pizza? Say Less. Za's on a Wednesday is the place to be + they have live music and indoor and outdoor seating!

📍 2930 Devine Street Columbia, SC 29205



HENDRIX

A rooftop bar complete with an awesome view of Columbia and great drink prices! Happy hour has \$5 drafts, \$3 off wine by the glass, & \$4 off well liquors. Tues-Sat 4-6pm

📍 1649 Main Street, Columbia SC 29201



JAKE'S ON DEVINE

Tues-Thursday 4pm-9pm is yappy hour. Bring your furry friend and let them run off the leash while you enjoy discount drinks for being the best dog parent around!

📍 2112 Devine Street, Columbia SC 29205



PEARLZ OYSTER BAR

Mon-Fri., 4-7pm \$5 house liquors, \$5 house wines, \$3 champagnes, and \$5 oyster shooters. Depending on how happy hour goes- check out Pearlz upstairs!

📍 936 Gervais Street, Columbia SC 29201



SMOKED

Mon.-friday., 4-6pm \$7 wines, \$9 select cocktails, and \$5 seasonal Peak Drift Brewing beverages. Great atmosphere and vibes throughout the whole restaurant !

📍 1643 Main Street, Columbia SC 29201

Parks & Recreation in Columbia



LAKE MURRAY

Lake Murray is a man-made lake offering tons of recreational activities including boating, swimming, sailing & fishing. Public access ramps, swimming areas, and campgrounds are located around the lake and most are open year round. The purple martins on Bomb Island are a must see when visiting!!

RIVERFRONT PARK

Columbia's Riverfront Park is the site of the world's first electrically operated textile mill. The park's hydroelectric plant, which is the oldest in the state is still operating today! 140 acres to walk, run, bike, and spend time outdoors with beautiful views!



SALUDA SHOALS PARK

With over 480 acres along the Saluda River, Saluda Shoals Park is the perfect family day trip if you are looking for outdoor trails, kayaking spots, dog parks, playgrounds & in the summer- the splash park! Check out their website for upcoming events!

BROADRIVER / CONGAREE RIVER

With river access points throughout downtown, you can boat, fish, float, and kayak down the river and enjoy Columbia's scenic views!



Family Friendly Spots in Columbia



EDVENTURE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

EdVenture is located in Columbia, SC and is the largest children's museum in the southeast. It is home to the world's largest 10 year old- Eddie! Interactive exhibits and fun for the whole family!

📍 211 Gervais Street, Columbia SC 29201

RIVERBANKS ZOO

Riverbanks Zoo is ranked on *TripAdvisor's America's Top 10 Zoo in the Nation* list and home to over 2000+ animals. Summer camps, Boo At the Zoo, and Lights at Riverbanks are a few seasonal events to check out. If you visit, be sure to stop and feed the giraffes

📍 500 Wildlife Pkwy Columbia, SC 29210



SALUDA SHOALS PARK

Saluda Shoals Park is a 480 acre riverfront park with miles of walking trails, boat/ kayak river access ramps, 18 hole disc golf course, dog park, and more! The lights at Saluda Shoals Park are a holiday favorite!

📍 5605 Bush River Road Columbia Sc 29212



Weekend Getaways

2 Hours from Columbia



CHARLESTON, SC

One of my personal favorite spots, especially during the warmer months for the beach and spending time outdoors! From historic tours, amazing restaurants,, and tons of shopping, Charleston has it all!

GREENVILLE, SC

Fallin Greenville is such a treat! From exploring mountain towns, shopping in downtown Greenville or hiking to see some of the state's best waterfalls, Greenville is a great place to visit!



CHARLOTTE, NC

Nothing beats a day full of brewery hopping or exploring South Park Mall! There is so much to do in Charlotte and such a quick trip from Columbia! I personally love the Whitewater Center.



Hotel Recommendation Hotel Trundle

If you want the FULL experience in Columbia, I highly recommend staying at *Hotel Trundle* off of Main Street in Downtown Columbia (Walking distance to the State House) Not only is this a boutique hotel but the owners truly show you what Columbia is all about!



HOTELTRUNDLE

📍 1224 Taylor St, Columbia, SC 29201

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