

COLUMBIA SC

MEETING PLANNER GUIDE

*what's
inside:*

Check Out Columbia SC's Unexpected Meeting Venues
Top Things to Do in Columbia SC
Find Out Where to Eat When the Meeting Wraps

#REAL
COLUMBIA
SC



THESE ARE MODERN TIMES, Y'ALL, and Columbia SC is redefining Southern for a new era. It's got all the gracious charm you'd expect from a Southern destination – nothing saccharine, just good old-fashioned kindness. It's a creative hub that's fed by university and capital city communities, yet it's manageable without the headaches common to larger cities. Come as you are and discover all that makes this the real heart of SC. We'll be waiting for you with a glass of sweet tea, unless of course you'd prefer something barrel-aged or bacon-infused.

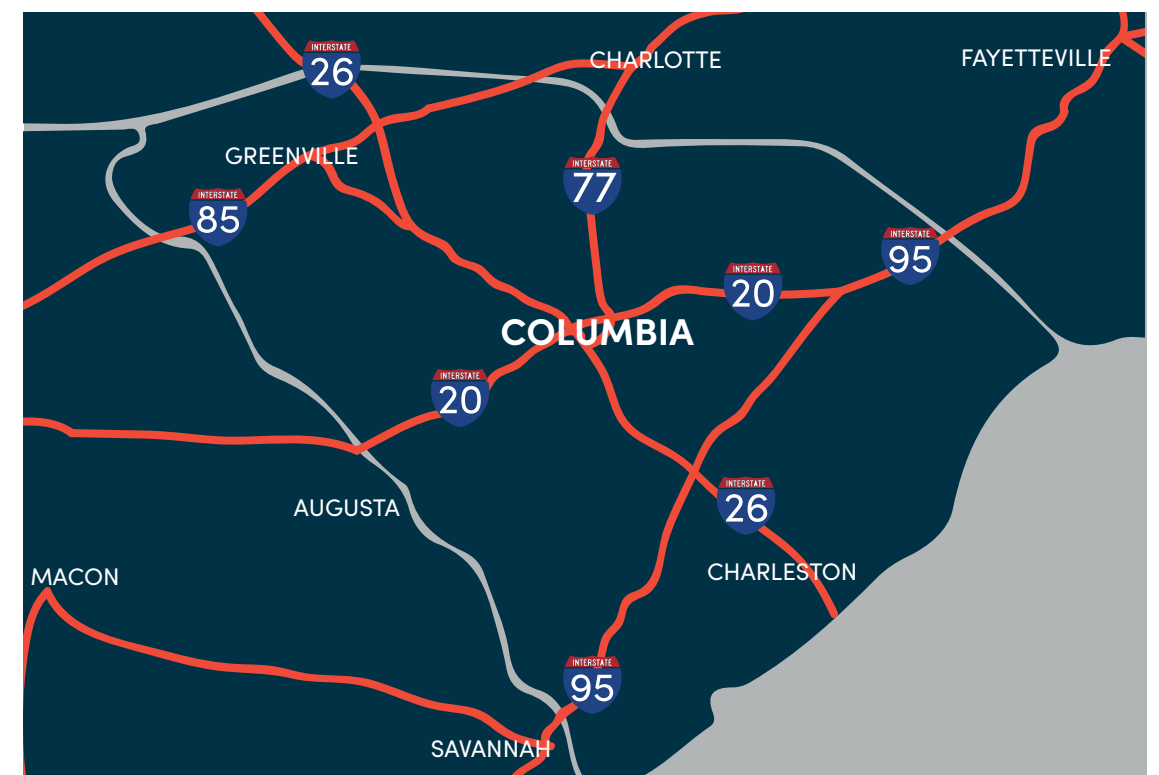
PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT): CARL HEYWARD, SEAN RAYFORD, BRETT FLASHNICK, SEAN RAYFORD, FORREST CLONTS, SHELL SUBER, CARL HEYWARD, SEAN RAYFORD

GETTING HERE

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT (CAE)



INTERSTATES



UNEXPECTED VENUES

For more unexpected venues, visit ExperienceColumbiaSC.com/Facilities

COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

Able to accommodate parties ranging from 10–1,400 this venue has unique touches, like exclusive special exhibitions and an outdoor plaza at the center of Main Street, making for captivating backdrops.

CITY ROOTS

Stage your event under a covered pavilion and twinkly string lights amidst rows of farm land at **City Roots**. Let **Farm to Table Productions** and **Honey River Catering** take you through a seamless planning process in a truly unique setting. And while they can host hundreds, they can also make your small event feel cozy.



COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

HISTORIC COLUMBIA

Stage your event with a beautiful backdrop of historic homes in the downtown area and with the support of the **Historic Columbia** event team. Choose from an expansive lawn lined with magnolia trees at the Gardens of the Hampton Preston Mansion or the weather protected Robert Mills Carriage House and Gardens. With more houses and gardens on the list, you'll have no trouble hosting small and large parties.



HISTORIC COLUMBIA

STONE RIVER

Take in views of the Congaree River and the Three Rivers Greenway from **Stone River's** large windows that overlook the city skyline. With stone accents, a built-in bar and a wrap-around porch, your guests will feel right at home while attending an event here.

SENATE'S END

Nestled along the banks of the Congaree River, you'll find scenic facilities that are perfect for any occasion at **Senate's End**. This hidden gem, 3-acre property boasts four indoor venues with outdoor patios and two outdoor wedding venues.



CENTRAL ENERGY

CENTRAL ENERGY

Central Energy is one of Columbia's newest venues with over 8,000 square feet of social space. Formerly the central power plant for the historic SC State Hospital, it was designed as a blank canvas with industrial and modern touches to help bring your personal vision to life.

SEGRA PARK

With the option for an indoor or outdoor space and capacity ranging from 30 to 400 guests, **Segra Park** is optimal for any group seeking a venue with various size vistas and space with a view.



SEGRA PARK



HARVEST DINNER AT
CITY ROOTS

LEFT PAGE PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART, FORREST CLONTS

RIGHT PAGE PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
HISTORIC COLUMBIA, FORREST CLONTS, CRUSH RUSH

MORE UNEXPECTED VENUES

For more unexpected venues, visit ExperienceColumbiaSC.com/Facilities



JUNCTION 800

JUNCTION 800

Smack in the middle of The Vista entertainment district, you'll find **Junction 800**. As a large room with a built-in bar and funky light fixtures, it's a blank space that's flexible for any needs of up to 500 seated and 1,000 standing. Bonus – their exclusive caterer, **Southern Way Catering**, has been serving the Columbia area for 35 years and is one of the best in the business.

LACE HOUSE

Southern charm abounds at this historic house turned event space. Surrounded by gardens and tucked away courtyards, it's the perfect spot for an elevated, yet contemporary event. Not to mention, the team behind this venue is well-versed in events of all sizes.

PASTIDES ALUMNI CENTER AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

With modern architecture and state of the art technology, the **Pastides Alumni Center** has 30,000 square feet of finely crafted event space. It serves as the backdrop to small training sessions and cocktail parties to large conferences and breathtaking weddings, with its stunning grand staircase and spacious main ballroom.

TOWNSHIP AUDITORIUM

With a 3,000 person capacity for concert seating and a 50 foot wide stage, the **Township** is the perfect setting for larger general sessions. It's got all the charm of a historic building with columns that line the front and a proscenium stage that frames the performers in a regal welcoming.

PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
JUNCTION 800, LACE HOUSE



701 WHALEY

701 WHALEY

This versatile meeting space offers several floor plans designed to accommodate a broad spectrum of event needs. For an effortlessly cool look, ask about dining in the original swimming pool room with glass bottomed floor.

1208 WASHINGTON PLACE

Ever thought of hosting an event in a bank vault? At **1208 Washington Place**, you can do just that. Dating back to 1924, this reimagined space has become a hot spot for all kinds of events. From the original vault doors, to the library to the terrace tucked away behind Main Street, it's an event venue that your attendees are sure to remember.

RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

Whether it's an intimate meeting or an elaborate party, **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden** is sure to offer a unique setting for your event. From facilities like the Ndoki Lodge where you could hear the sounds of exotic animals as you walk to the event to more refined spaces in the Botanical Gardens, Riverbanks has a variety of options for your group.



RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
JESSICA HUNT, RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN



LACE HOUSE

UNEXPECTED FOODIE TOWN

THE COLUMBIA FOOD SCENE IS BUZZING

with new and exciting restaurants popping up all the time, while seasoned chefs continue to marvel diners with their culinary creations. When the meeting wraps, grab the team, and explore the capital city one bite at a time. Need a recommendation? Try one of these local favorites.

MARKET ON MAIN

Market on Main offers a place to comfortably enjoy every season in Columbia, with a cocktail to match. Their lush patio offers heated igloos in the winter, sun coverings in the spring, and college football on a projector in the fall. With ingredients straight from the indoor market, their menu has a wide variety of everything, from vegan meals to four different styles of Waygu beef.

SMOKED

For an elevated dining experience, make your way to **Smoked** in the Main Street district. Here, you'll find decadent dishes featuring smoked meats, oysters, and even smoked drinks. Housed in a reimagined 19th century mercantile, the atmosphere is just as unique as the creations they serve.

BLUE MARLIN

Just down the street from the Columbia Metropolitan Center, you'll find **Blue Marlin**. Merging African, West Indian and Caribbean flavors with Cajun and Creole dishes, Blue Marlin showcases the diversity of Southern cuisine. Located in an old train station, Blue Marlin has been pulling in locals and visitors since 1994.

KIKI'S CHICKEN & WAFFLES

The Columbia region's first dedicated chicken-and-waffle destination, **Kiki's Chicken and Waffles** has been serving homemade soul food for more than five years. This is your go-to spot for wings piled high atop French Toast, or red velvet waffles. For lunch or dinner, try fish and waffles or the fried shrimp platter.

PUBLICO KITCHEN & TAP

For a more casual setting, **Publico Kitchen & Tap** is serving up Lat-Asian inspired dishes with margarita flights on the side. Head to their hidden patio for yard games, camaraderie, and lots of furry friends.



SPOTTED SALAMANDER



MARKET ON MAIN



SMOKED

BLACK ROOSTER

Across the river in West Columbia is the modern and "Frenchish" **Black Rooster**. Here the menu ranges from entrees like the Royale with Cheese and Vietnamese Mussels, and plenty of small plate options like Le Grilled Cheese and Beef Tartare, portioned just right for when you want bites to share. Best part? You can snap a pic of the mouth-watering creations and the city skyline in one shot on the rooftop which has one of the best views of downtown Columbia.

RAMBO'S FAT CAT BISCUITS

This breakfast joint is taking biscuit making to the next level. Goat cheese, smoked brisket, and mac & cheese are just a few of the fixings you'll catch on their menu, but their pimento cheese is one of their most popular. If pimento cheese is your love language, you can explore some of the region's best offerings through our Pimento Cheese Passport (**Rambo's Fat Cat Biscuits** is one of seventeen restaurants featured!).

COA AGAVERIA Y COCINA

After a stroll through Columbia SC's vibrant art district, the Vista, swing by **COA** for equally vibrant cocktails and tapas. Here they take crafted to a whole new level. While their menu is packed with thoughtfully created dishes, the tacos are a must.

PHOTOS ON OPPOSITE PAGE (FROM TOP):
FORREST CLONTS, FORREST CLONTS, SMOKED

PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
FORREST CLONTS, COA AGAVERIA Y COCINA

SPOTTED SALAMANDER

For a quick bite with lots of Southern flare, head to **Spotted Salamander**. Their fresh salads (the Spotted Salad is a must-try) and sandwiches make for the perfect lunch, but a visit would be remiss without an order of their deviled eggs, famous among locals and visitors alike.

HENDRIX

Swanky decor, specialty cocktails, and a rooftop bar overlooking Main Street is what you'll find at this popular restaurant. **Hendrix** offers one-of-a-kind shareable dishes and main courses made from sustainable, locally, and ethically sourced ingredients.



RAMBO'S FAT CAT BISCUITS



COA AGAVERIA Y COCINA

MUST DOS IN COLUMBIA SC

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO SPARE

or if you're just looking to take a break from business, there's no shortage of things to do in the heart of SC. From brewery tours to our first-class attractions, there's something for everyone to discover and explore.



STEEL HANDS BREWING

BREWERIES

It's no secret that craft beer is gaining in popularity across the nation. With a mix of breweries (11 and counting!), brew pubs, and biergartens, Columbia's beer scene is no different. Firmly rooted in a homegrown spirit, each has its own character, giving you a unique venue for a memorable reception, or a happy hour spot for attendees after the meeting wraps. Check out local favorites like **Steel Hands Brewing** in Cayce or **Columbia Craft** located in The Vista.



RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

ATTRACTIONS

Our attractions are the perfect way to while away a few hours in the city. For the art lovers, the **Columbia Museum of Art** boasts an impressive permanent collection in addition to exciting rotating exhibits. Take in history and culture by stopping by the **South Carolina State Museum**. With four floors of exhibits on South Carolina history, art, natural history and science and technology to the state-of-the-art observatory and dome planetarium, to the interactive experience of the 4D theater, guests will not be bored. Or, visit the house & garden district with guided tours from **Historic Columbia**. Explore your inner wild child at **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden**, hands- down one of the nation's prettiest and most interactive zoos, and home to 2,000 animals in habitat as well as an ever-growing State Botanical Garden. The capital city is also home to **EdVenture**, the South's largest children's museum that houses EDDIE, the world's largest child.



PUBLIC ART MURAL

PUBLIC ART

Columbia is filled with an abundance of walls, parks, courtyards and street corners with murals, and sculptures, just waiting to be found. Much of Columbia's public art is displayed indoors as well. Don't expect to find typical convention center art on the walls of **Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**. Instead, the light-filled space is filled with abstract landscapes, montages, light-catching glass sculptures and paintings of local landmarks so realistic that they could be photographs.

PHOTOS (FROM LEFT):
CAIT MALONEY, FORREST CLONTS, BRETT FLASHNICK



CONGAREE
NATIONAL PARK

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

The heart of SC lies at the confluence of the Saluda and Broad Rivers, which merge right in town to form the Congaree. The region is flush with parks and opportunities for outdoor adventures. Explore the trails of **Three Rivers Greenway**, spend the day on the water at **Lake Murray**, or go hiking at **Congaree National Park**, South Carolina's only national park. With so much natural beauty nearby, you can escape the bustling city and get lost in your thoughts amidst fresh air and cool waters in next to no time flat.



WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM

GAME TIME

Nothing brings people together quite like sports. From collegiate games to a professional baseball team, you and your attendees can become local fans for the day and root for the home team. Home to the **University of South Carolina Gamecocks**, you can catch a football game at **Williams-Brice Stadium** or watch the men and women's basketball teams take on their opponents at **Colonial Life Arena**, located right next to the convention center. In the spring, you can cheer on the **Columbia Fireflies**, our minor league baseball team, at **Segra Park** where there's not a bad seat in the house.

PHOTOS (FROM LEFT):
CRUSH RUSH, BRETT FLASHNICK

COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER



LOCATION

As South Carolina’s only downtown convention center, your attendees get to experience Columbia’s manageable urban downtown with over 60 bars and restaurants and over 2,000 hotel rooms right outside our doors.

CONNECTIVITY

With free Wi-Fi in all meeting rooms and pre-function areas, and the infrastructure to upgrade to 2GB or more, we have everything needed to support your hybrid event and streaming needs.

HIGH QUALITY CUSTOM CATERING

Our Chef customizes over 85% of the menus served for each client’s taste and budget, featuring regionally sourced, fresh products with a level of detail and quality you wouldn’t think possible on a large scale.

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

With us, it’s personal. From customized decals on the escalator, to umbrellas by the door when it starts to rain, to good old-fashioned kindness, we invite you and your attendees to come experience our warm Southern welcome.



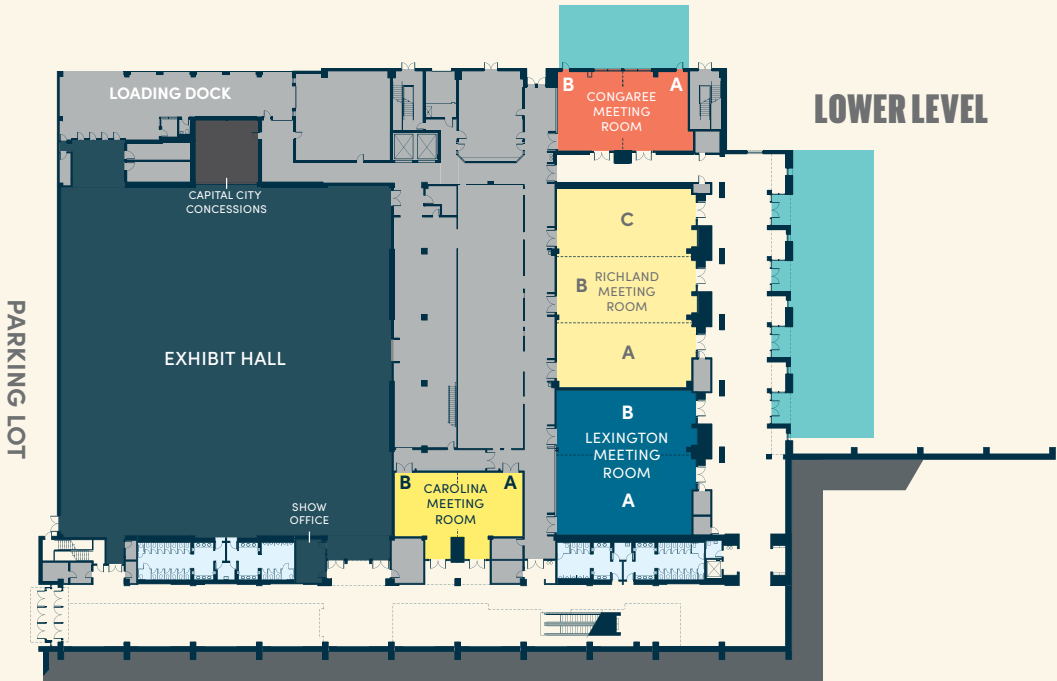
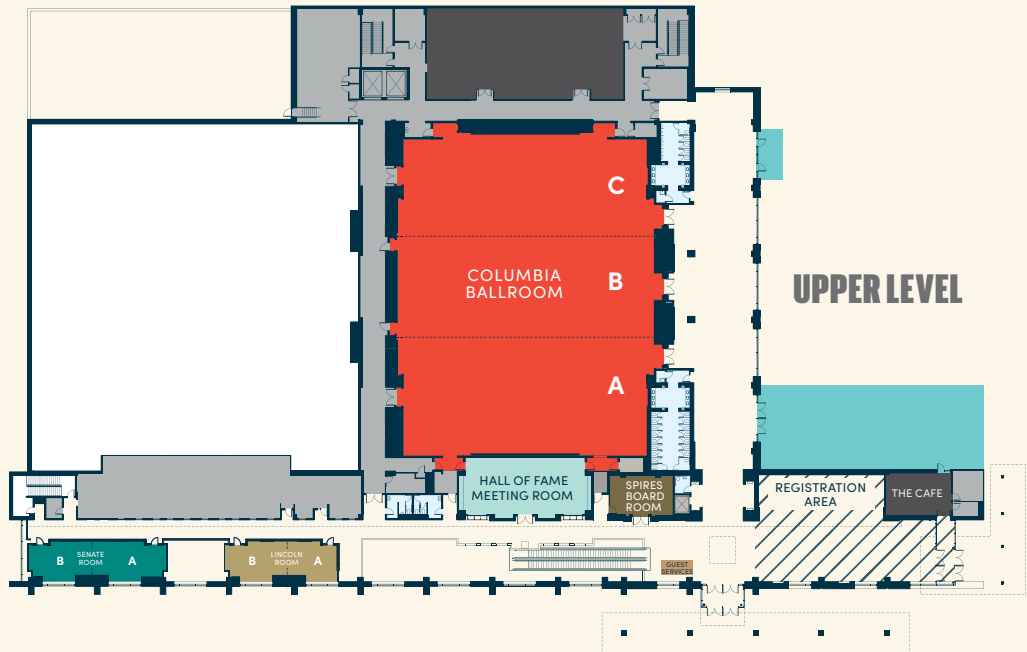
PHOTOS (FROM TOP):
BRETT FLASHNICK, FORREST CLONTS, FORREST CLONTS



FLEXIBLE SPACES

58,900 sq. ft. of meeting space divisible into up to 19 spaces, including a 23,700 square foot, column free Exhibit Hall and 16,700 square foot Ballroom.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| BALLROOM | SENATE ROOM | KITCHEN/ CONCESSIONS | LEXINGTON MEETING ROOM | OUTDOOR SPACE |
| SPIRES BOARDROOM | LINCOLN ROOM | EXHIBIT HALL | RICHLAND MEETING ROOM | PREFUNCTION SPACE |
| HALL OF FAME MEETING ROOM | REGISTRATION AREA | CAROLINA MEETING ROOM | CONGAREE MEETING ROOM | SERVICE |
| GUEST SERVICES | | | | RESTROOMS |



ACCOMMODATIONS & SPACE

For more information, visit ExperienceColumbiaSC.com/Meeting-Planners

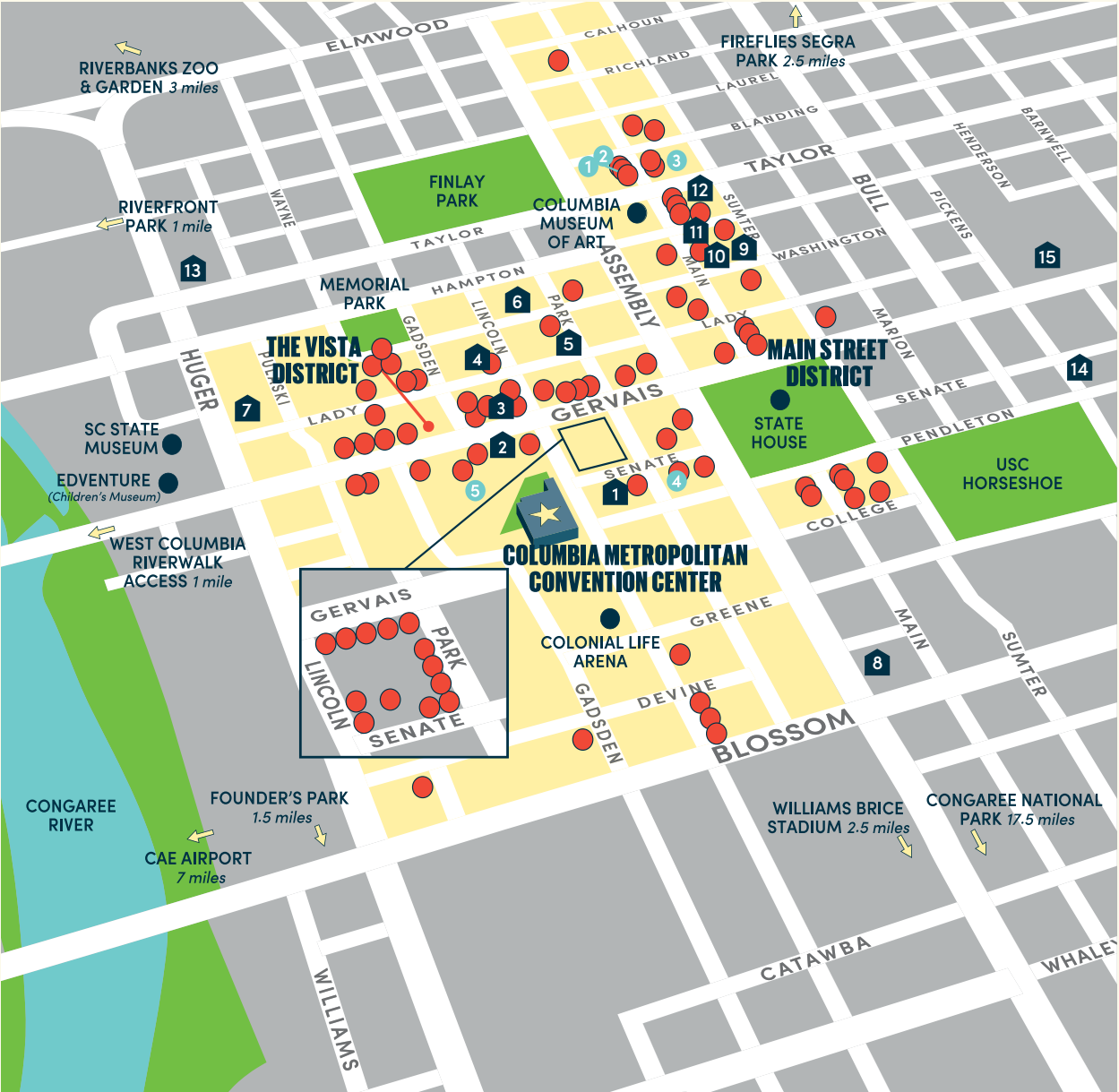
A SAMPLING OF THE VARIETY OF OPTIONS IN COLUMBIA SC
For details, visit ExperienceColumbiaSC.com/meeting-planners

HOTEL LOCATED DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA SC

Property Name	Number of Sleeping Rooms	Total Meeting Space (sq. ft.)	Number of Breakout Rooms	Max Capacity for Banquet
Columbia Marriott	300	17,896	17	500
Double Tree by Hilton & Conference Center	237	23,000	16	800
Hilton Columbia Center	222	5,956	8	220
Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbia-Greystone	218	18,000	17	750
Courtyard by Marriott Columbia Downtown at USC	189	5,000	-	300
Cambria Hotel Columbia Downtown - The Vista	144	2,200	2	80
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia/Harbison	143	3,800	3	176
SpringHill Suites by Marriott-Columbia Downtown /The Vista	132	3,026	3	120
Hyatt Place Columbia/Downtown/Vista	130	1,689	2	60
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown	123	4,500	2	280
Hampton Inn Downtown Historic District	123	375	-	-
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Airport	122	5,182	4	200
Hampton Inn I-26 Airport	120	-	-	-

PHOTO BY TUCKER PRESCOTT

Property Name	Number of Sleeping Rooms	Total Meeting Space (sq. ft.)	Number of Breakout Rooms	Max Capacity for Banquet
Graduate Columbia	119	2,500	3	120
Tru by Hilton Greystone	117	-	-	-
TownePlace Suites Columbia West Lexington	111	-	-	-
Hampton Inn & Suites Columbia Killian Road	108	1,146	2	45
Residence Inn Columbia West/Lexington	108	744	-	30
Aloft Columbia Downtown	107	609	-	25
Home2 Suites by Hilton Columbia Downtown	100	Attached to Hilton Garden Inn Downtown		
Courtyard by Marriott Cayce	100	683	-	50
Residence Inn Columbia Northwest Harbison	100	744	-	35
TownePlace Suites Columbia Northwest Harbison	99	-	-	-
Wingate by Wyndham Columbia/Lexington	97	2,325	2	96
Comfort Inn Hotel Columbia	96	600	-	22
Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott Columbia Northeast	96	1,100	-	-
TownePlace Suites by Marriott Columbia SE /Fort Jackson	91	540	-	25
Holiday Inn Columbia - Downtown	90	325	-	-
Tru by Hilton Harbison	85	-	-	-
Homewood Suites by Hilton	81	2,400	2	80
Hotel Trundle	41	-	-	-



Hotels Within One Mile of Convention Center
(2,145 total rooms)

1. Hilton Columbia Center
2. Hampton Inn Downtown Historic District
3. Hyatt Place Columbia/Downtown/Vista
4. Aloft Columbia Downtown
5. Cambria Hotel Columbia Downtown The Vista
6. Holiday Inn Express
7. SpringHill Suites by Marriott Columbia Downtown
8. Courtyard by Marriott Columbia Downtown at USC
9. Holiday Inn Columbia - Downtown
10. Sheraton Columbia Downtown Hotel
11. Columbia Marriott Hotel

12. Hotel Trundle
13. Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott Columbia Downtown
14. Graduate Columbia
15. Hilton Garden Inn/Home 2 Suites

Restaurants within Walking Distance

Unexpected Outings within Walking Distance

1. The Grand Boutique Bowling Alley & Games
2. Nickelodeon Theatre Arthouse Movie Theatre
3. The Player's Club Virtual Sporting Games & Bar
4. The Senate at Tin Roof A Live Music Joint
5. Craft Axe Throwing Axe Throwing & Bar

LET US HELP YOU

WE ARE YOUR COMPREHENSIVE
PLANNING RESOURCE



SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO LEARN
MORE

Before YOU BOOK, OUR SALES TEAM CAN...

**SCHEDULE & FACILITATE
SITE VISITS**

**PROVIDE YOU WITH INSIDER
KNOWLEDGE OF DESTINATION**

**PROVIDE DIGITAL OR
IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS**
to decision makers to include hotel rates
and meetings space availability.

USE OUR RELATIONSHIPS
with hotels, meeting venues and area
restaurants to secure the best rates and
availability for your group.

After YOU BOOK, OUR SERVICES TEAM CAN...

**PROVIDE PROMOTIONAL
MATERIALS & HELP BUILD
YOUR MEETING SWAG BAG ***

**ASSIST WITH TOURS,
OFF SITE ACTIVITIES
& TRANSPORTATION**

**ASSIST WITH WELCOME
SIGNAGE FOR YOUR EVENT ***

**PROVIDE POST-CONVENTION
HOTEL ROOM PICK UP REPORTS**

ASK A SALES TEAM MEMBER IF YOU QUALIFY FOR OUR INCENTIVE PROGRAM

* At cost charges may apply for some items



ExperienceColumbiaSC.com



ColumbiaConventionCenter.com