COLUMBIA SC
MEETING PLANNER GUIDE
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 Southern hot spot. 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, SHELL SUBER, SEAN RAYFORD, FORREST CLONTS, CARL HEYWARD, CARL HEYWARD, FORREST CLONTS
GETTING HERE

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT (CAE)

INTERSTATES
BREWERIES

IT’S NO SECRET that craft beer is gaining in popularity across the nation. With a mix of breweries, 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.

Located in a historic airplane hangar, Hunter-Gatherer at the Curtiss-Wright Hangar features an open floor plan with all brewing equipment in view, plus an observation deck where you can watch planes take off and land at Owens Field airport. Book it for a private event or mingle with locals to hear stories of its past.

A turf grass lawn, covered patio, rooftop bar, and cozy taproom – the options for meeting space at River Rat Brewery are endless. Not to mention, their menu boasts elevated bar food like smoked wings, nachos with brisket, and vegan & vegetarian options.

With a draft list that is constantly rotating, Columbia Craft Brewing Co. is often pouring flights for its patrons to try each style. Local art dons the walls of this well-kept tasting room and the brewing space is just small enough to make for an easy and engaging tour experience for your attendees.

Steel Hands Brewing sits at 10,000 sq. ft. as Columbia’s largest brewery, equipped with an expansive taproom, yard, and an outdoor stage and bar made out of shipping containers. Plan ahead and you’ll find live music happening more often than not.

With no taproom as a home base, Bierkeller Columbia uses pop-up biergartens to showcase its German styles, served in traditional beer steins. Work with our team to set up an exclusive pop-up or take advantage of their weekly events on the river during the Spring and Fall.
**Bone-In-Barbeque** takes the authentic South Carolina BBQ experience to a whole new level. Get a Classic Carolina Pork Plate for lunch and dinner or start your day here for brunch with items like the Pulled-Pork Stuffed French Toast or the adult Cartoon Plate with Fruity Pebbles pancakes.

Locals and tourists agree, the Hangover Hashbrowns at Café Strudel are a go-to. While you’re at it, you might as well tip back a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice.

Just a quick jaunt from the State Capitol building, Bourbon’s Creole/Cajun flavor-infused menu boasts dishes like Black-Eyed Pea Hummus and Jalapeno Hushpuppies. Here, you’re likely to see an influx of young professionals and legislators grabbing drinks after work.

In Columbia, you’re bound to find some pimento cheese on just about every menu. Try something fancy like a Pimento Cheeseburger Pizza from Terra or stick to the basics at Southern staples like The War Mouth, featuring Smashed Pimento Cheese Yukon Potatoes.

With views of the South Carolina State House and live music nightly, Hall’s Chophouse is a go-to for some of the best steak around and a rollicking good time.

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.

Cap off your night by giving into your sweet tooth at Sweet Cream Company and try one of their unique seasonal flavor combinations. Or grab some goodies to go from Blue Flour Bakery for the folks at home. (Also customizable for your event!)
UNEXPECTED VENUES

HENDRIX
Swanky décor, specialty cocktails, and a rooftop bar overlooking Main Street is what you’ll find at this popular restaurant. Turn it into a dynamite reception spot for your guests and they’ll be talking about their experience (and the food!) for years.

701 WHALEY
This versatile meeting space offers several floor plans designed to accommodate a broad spectrum of event needs. Flexibility in the logistics and aesthetic details make for a stunningly customizable space.

CITY ROOTS
Stage your event under a covered pavilion and twinkly string lights amidst rows of farm land at City Roots – located smack in the middle of downtown. Let Farm to Table Productions, Management and 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.
CENTRAL ENERGY
Central Energy is Columbia’s newest venue 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 you bring your vision to life.

THE GRAND
With a self-serve tap room, bowling, board games, and seriously good eats, this spot is ideal for groups of 10–80 ready to bring out their playful side.

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

THE PASTOR’S STUDY
Situated neatly above Lula Drake Wine Parlour and named after one of the building’s former purposes as the study for a local pastor, The Pastor’s Study has a vintage, classy feel for events with approximately 100 guests.

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.

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.
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.

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 1,700 hotel rooms right outside our doors.

FREE WI-FI
Free Wi-Fi in all meeting rooms and pre-function areas, with the infrastructure to upgrade to 2GB or more.

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, its 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.

SUSTAINABILITY
In an effort to operate efficiently and use fresh ingredients we source about 80% of our food regionally during growing seasons, compost all back of house food waste, and recycle used cooking oil. The building also features highly efficient LED lighting throughout.
**MAIN STREET DISTRICT**

At the center of this capital city you’ll find a revitalized Main Street where decades-old sites give rise to fresh perspectives. Impress your colleagues with the likes of a steakhouse or relax on rooftop bars with views of the cityscape. All this, less than a mile from the Convention Center. Here, there’s something for everyone after your meeting wraps.

**THE VISTA DISTRICT**

Located right outside the Convention Center doors, The Vista is Columbia’s artistic warehouse district, bustling with dynamite eats, drinks and things to do. From national chains like Panera Bread and Chipotle, to local favorites like Blue Marlin and Motor Supply Co. Bistro, there’s no shortage of options. In Columbia, event attendees can look forward to exploring beyond the main event.
## ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

A SAMPLING OF THE VARIETY OF OPTIONS IN COLUMBIA SC

For details, visit ExperienceColumbiaSC.com/meeting-planners

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PHOTO BY TUCKER PRESCOTT
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