

John Rutledge House Inn



John Rutledge House Inn

Fact Sheet

Address: 116 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401

Phone Number: (843) 723-7999 • 800-476-9741

Website: www.johnrutledgehouseinn.com

Location: In the heart of Charleston's historic district, the John Rutledge House Inn® is just a step away from Charleston's shops, restaurants, galleries and popular attractions.

Affiliations: Historic Hotels of America, Select Registry,
Southern Living Hotel Collection

Owner: Rick Widman

Innkeeper: Margaret Baxley

Interior Designer: Pam Plowden, Pulliam Morris Interiors, Columbia, S.C.

Guest rooms: The John Rutledge House Inn® consists of 11 spacious and elegant rooms in the original grand residence and eight charming and secluded rooms among the inn's two carriage houses. Each room has a private bath.

Service and Amenities: Deluxe Continental breakfast or daily cooked Southern breakfast served in your room, the ballroom or courtyard; Afternoon tea reception in the ballroom or piazza overlooking historic Broad Street; Port, sherry, and brandy in the afternoon and evening. Daily delivery of USA Today newspaper to room. Irons/ironing boards, hairdryers, waffle robes, in room refrigerator with bottled water; Flat screen TV and DVD players; Tempur-Pedic beds with classic European bedding; Evening turndown service with fine chocolates; Complimentary wireless internet access in all guest rooms and common areas; 24 hour concierge service; Access to a nearby health club for a minimal charge. Valet laundry service Monday-Saturday.

Gathering & Meeting Spaces: Two meeting rooms, accommodating groups of up to 48 people, are available for wedding, business gatherings or special events.

John Rutledge House Inn

Awards and Accolades

“2016 Certificate of Excellence”

TRIP ADVISOR

***2016 Readers Choice Awards
“#3 Top 10 Hotels in Charleston”***

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER MAGAZINE

“The Gold List”

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER MAGAZINE
2011-present

“Four Diamond Distinction”

AAA TRAVEL
1990-present

“10 Best Hotel Porches in the U.S.”

FODORS TRAVEL 2014

“This ‘wonderful small inn with loads of charm’ was built as a private residence by a signer of the Constitution. Located near King Street’s restaurants and shops, the “classic elegant antebellum’ design includes original plaster moldings and inlaid wood floors, ironwork, and Greek Revival porticos around the front door. The ‘spacious rooms’ have Italian-marble fireplaces, period furnishings, and canopy or four-poster beds, creating a ‘very romantic ambience.’ Although there is no restaurant on-site, guests take ‘the exceptional breakfast outside in the quaint courtyard’ or delivered to their room. ‘From check-in to departure, we were treated like family.’”

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER MAGAZINE
October 2015

“A black-and-white tiled entrance signals that you've arrived at this lodging on Broad Street that was once the home of John Rutledge, one of the signers of the U.S. Constitution. A gracious b&b experience, this inn has designated pet-friendly rooms.”

TRAVEL + LEISURE
May 2016

John Rutledge House Inn

History

John Rutledge House tradition (undocumented) says John Rutledge (1739-1800) built this house c. 1763 for his bride, 19-year-old Elizabeth Grimke. It is not known when Rutledge acquired the property, which he sold in 1790. Subsequent documents identify it as "formerly the residence of Mr. Rutledge." Rutledge was a member of the South Carolina Assembly, the Stamp Act Congress, the Continental Congress and the U.S. Constitutional Convention. He was President or "Dictator", of South Carolina, 1776-78, and Governor of the State, 1779-82. He was Chief Justice of South Carolina and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and served a term as Chief Justice of the U.S. , although unconfirmed by the Senate. Rutledge is buried in St. Michael's Churchyard.

Sometime after 1790, the property was acquired by Gen. John McPherson, a Revolutionary Patriot and a prominent figure on the South Carolina turf. He was among several horse breeders credited with improving the state's stock of horses and with maintaining the high standard of racing which made the South Carolina Jockey Club famous in the annals of racing at a time when it was the "sport of gentlemen." The house was sold by his family in 1836 to the Right Rev. John England, Roman Catholic Bishop of Charleston, whose executors sold it in 1843.

Ten years later it was acquired by Thomas Norman Gadsden, a real estate broker and slave trader. Gadsden, in 1853, engaged the Swedish architect, P.H. Hammarskold, to remodel the house, adding terra cotta window cornices similar to those on the Mills House Hotel, and the iron balcony, posts, curving step rail and fence. The two story brick kitchen with Gothic arched windows is also by Hammarskold. The ironwork is attributed to Christopher Werner, as it incorporates two of his favorite motifs: the palmetto tree of South Carolina and the eagle of the United States. The ironwork is also a combination of wrought and cast iron work. The drawing room on the second floor is large and has a coved ceiling. In this room the United States Courts sat for a time after the Civil War, until the Federal Government bought the Charleston Club House, which stood in the present Post Office Park on Meeting Street.

Arthur Barnwell, who acquired the property from Gadsden's family in 1885, re-modeled the interior, installing eight Italian marble mantelpieces from England and parquet floors of three kinds of wood, copied from European palaces. It is said the carpenter, Noisette, took eight years to put in the floors. Barnwell sold the property in 1902 to Robert Goodwyn Rhett, who was Mayor of Charleston, president of the Peoples Bank (which built the Peoples Building) and one of the developers of North Charleston. During Rhett's ownership, William Howard Taft, U.S. President and Chief Justice, was several times a weekend guest. Tradition says that it was during the Rhett's' residence here that their butler, William Deas, invented the crab soup.

(Ravenel, Architects, 240, 242-243. Smith & Smith, Dwelling Houses, 254-255. Stoney, This is Charleston, 16. Barry, Mr. Rutledge, passim. Wallace, 256-257, 290-293, 339. Rosen, 129, 143. Ravenel, Charleston, The Place and the People, 161, 172, 225-227, 255, 319-320, 400. Stockton, DYKYC, March 24, 1975. Nielsen, DYKYC, Feb. 10, 1936. Rhett, Gay, Woodward & Hamilton, 2-3.)

John Rutledge House Inn

Sample Packages

Romantic Getaway Package

Enjoy elegance, charm and romance at Charleston's most historic bed and breakfast. Upon arrival, slip into plush robes and indulge in a bottle of champagne and chocolate covered strawberries. Choose an afternoon to retreat to your cozy guest room for two private 45 minute massages. Enjoy exquisite fine dining with a \$100 gift certificate to Circa 1886 Restaurant, via round trip rickshaw ride.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 2 nights in a king bed, include the following:
- Champagne and Chocolate Covered Strawberries
- \$100 gift certificate to Circa 1886 Restaurant
- 2 45 minute in-room massages

Discover Charleston

Discover Charleston's many unique pleasures from the John Rutledge House Inn. With our Discover Charleston Package, two people will enjoy the city's most beautiful and historic sites with a three-day, two-night experience. This package includes a carriage ride of downtown Charleston and a tour of a historic house. You'll also spend another day at your choice of Fort Sumter, Middleton Place Gardens or Drayton Hall.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 2 nights in a king bed, include the following:
- Carriage ride through Historic District leaving from the City Market
- Your choice of a day at Fort Sumter, Middleton Place or Drayton Hall Plantation
- A walking tour of a historic Charleston home.

Foodie's Paradise Package

Charleston is a foodie's paradise. Get a taste of the city's finest cuisine with the John Rutledge House Inn Foodie Package. From al fresco dining to sipping wine and people watching at a street side wine bar, this package will show you Charleston's best restaurants. Save room for an unforgettable fine dining experience at the romantic, award-winning Circa 1886 Restaurant.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 2 nights in a king bed, include the following:
- Deluxe complimentary breakfast each morning, an afternoon tea and evening sherry or brandy to cap off a true Southern experience
- \$25 Gift Certificate for use at Kitchen 208
- \$100 Gift Certificate for use at Circa 1886
- Two hour Culinary Tour

Progressive Christmas Dinner Package

Celebrate Christmas with one of Charleston's most beloved holiday traditions. Plan a special evening with the Holiday Progressive Dinner Package where you'll enjoy a festive evening in Charleston with several stops throughout the Historic District.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 2 nights in a king bed, include the following:
- Hors d'oeuvres at our sister property, the historic Kings Courtyard Inn
- \$25 Gift Certificate for use at Kitchen 208
- A carriage ride to Circa 1886 Restaurant where you will enjoy a three-course dinner
- Dessert and Coffee at the John Rutledge House Inn