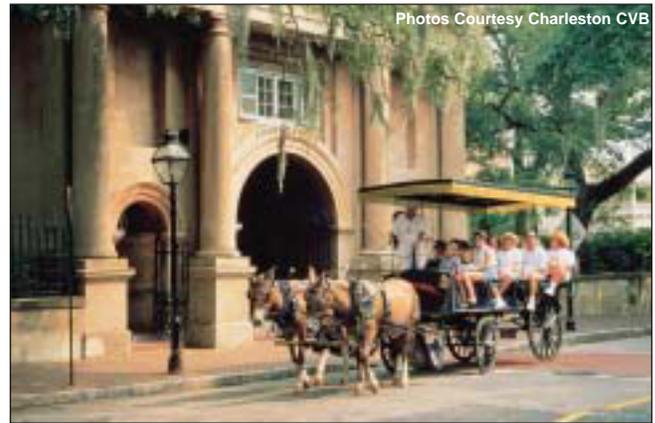


Charleston: Captivating, Charming And Graceful

...and host city to RTA's 85th Annual Convention in October



Carriage tours are a popular free-time activity for attendees and guests.

Charleston, S.C. The name of this city conjures up images of Southern belles in long flowing gowns, live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and 18th century church steeples dotting the horizon. It is truly a place where history comes alive and where adventure cascades down every street. A bistro around the corner, a cobblestone pathway, an open-air market, antiques, gardens—all to be explored and enjoyed.



Golfing opportunities are abundant in Charleston.

Charleston is also a city devoted to the present. From a fantastic aquarium and maritime museum, to charter boating and fishing, to incredible golf and some of the finest restaurants on the East Coast, to fabulous shopping, visitors are never at a loss for something to do. And, most importantly, Charleston is a walking city—any venue can be accessed within just a few minutes' stroll. Charleston is a unique combination of the old and the new that creates an irresistible environment for residents and visitors alike.

Charleston is the site of the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) 85th annual convention Oct. 21-24, a time when many say Charleston is at its most beautiful. The meetings and events will be held at the historic Mills House Hotel. So, simply mark your calendar for these days, and all the excitement that the historic and hospitable city of Charleston offers will be yours for the taking.

One of the foremost goals of the RTA convention is to blend significant business sessions focused on today's railroad issues with an experience that is beyond ordinary. And this year will be no exception. The site of the convention is The Mills House Hotel, known as the Grand Old Lady of Charleston. Built in the mid 1800s, the hotel is known for its beautiful marble floors and crystal chandeliers. Described as the finest hotel south of New York upon its opening, The Mills House is now what could be considered a

boutique hotel that specializes in mid-sized business gatherings and family fun.

A roof deck and outdoor pool overlook Meeting Street. Out the front door, at the intersection of Broad and Meeting streets, is Charleston's Four Corners of Law, so named because the intersection is the location of buildings that represent municipal, state, federal and canon law. Behind the hotel is Charleston's famous King Street, which has been restored and is now known for its shopping.

During the convention, golfers can play one of Arnold Palmer's newest signature courses at the Rivertowne Country Club, while spouses will be treated to a breakfast and exposition presented by Charleston's Silver Lady, Dawn Evers. A frequent guest on the Antiques Road Show, Evers combines a hands-on look at

millions of dollars worth of antique silver with the stories about the people who used them.

Accenting the business sessions, the annual luncheon and banquet will be held in the adjacent and now famous Hibernia Society Hall. One of the oldest structures in the Deep South, Hibernia Hall has been chosen by numerous filmmakers as a backdrop because of its unique and historic architecture. Federal Railroad Administrator Allan Rutter has been invited to keynote the general business session luncheon.

Finally, what would an RTA convention be without a great themed banquet to conclude all the hard work? Can you say luau? A special Polynesian feast with special entertainment is the pièce de résistance for a final evening in the French Quarter of old Charleston.

Expansive business sessions, fellowship with industry associates, superb cuisine provided by The Mills House and area restaurants, and fun-filled activities will make this convention special for every member of the family. Mark your calendar, then pick up the phone and call The Mills House at (800) 874-9600 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (EST) to make your reservations today. Hope to see you there! §

Key Websites To Explore

- <http://www.millshouse.com/>
- <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/>
- <http://www.discovercharleston.com/shop3.html>
- <http://206.74.146.33/scaquarium/scaweb/index.htm>
- <http://charlestonarea.com/>