

KINGS COURTYARD INN





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Fact Sheet

Address: 198 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401

Phone Number: (843) 723-7000 • 800-845-6119

Website: www.kingscourtyardinn.com

Location: Located on King Street in the heart of Charleston's historic district, the Kings Courtyard Inn is just a step away from all the city's shops, restaurants, City Market, and popular attractions.

Affiliations: Charter Member - Historic Hotels of America

Owner: Rick Widman

Innkeeper: Lisa Anderson

Interior Designer: Pam Plowden, Pulliam Morris Interiors

Guest rooms: The Kings Courtyard Inn is a 41 room inn with three inner courtyards. Each room has a private bath, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, in-room refrigerator, flat screen TV and wireless internet access.

Service and Amenities: Complimentary continental breakfast served to your room, the breakfast room or one of three courtyards; Complimentary afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres; Complimentary sherry in the lobby in the evening; Complimentary USA Today newspaper; Complimentary wireless internet access in all guest rooms and common areas; Evening turndown service on request; Valet laundry service Monday through Saturday; 24 hour concierge service; Access to a nearby health club for a minimal charge.

Gathering & Meeting Spaces: Two meeting rooms, accommodating groups of up to 50 people, are available for weddings, business gatherings or special events



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History

192 - 198 King Street, the present address of Kings Courtyard Inn and several retail shops, is known to many Charleston historians as the Blum Building. It was built in 1853 by Colonel J. Charles Blum and designed in the Greek revival style with Egyptian detail by Francis D. Lee. Other noteworthy buildings designed by Mr. Lee include 141 East Bay Street and the Unitarian Church on Archdale Street. Horlbeck Alley, located a few paces south of the inn is named for the family of Mrs. Blum, Esther Horlbeck.

Ward records indicate the value of this location increased from \$1,000 to \$9,000 in 1853 with the erection of the building designed by Mr. Lee. In Lee's day King Street was to visiting ladies a "narrow dirty street" but even so it was fashionable and contained the best shops. The construction of Colonel Blum's building in 1853 brought to this part of lower King Street a change from modest, separate residences to a more diversified usage which included retail trade, second and third story rental units, and hotels. Establishments in the Blum building mentioned in the City directories of 1855 and 1859 were Mrs. Evan's boarding house, F. Petit confectionary and fancy goods, Mrs. Sarah Watts, Millinery and Bailey and Douglas, and retail groceries. In the 1870's, after war had dissipated wealth of the region and made conspicuous consumption vulgar, the shops changed in character. A portrait and picture frame manufacturer lasted only a year at 192 King Street, Singer Sewing Machine and "Installment" Furniture stayed for longer periods.

The Twentieth Century has seen such occupants as a bicycle dealer, electrical supplies, dry cleaners, and Salvation Army lodging for women. These types of occupancy were continuing in the 1930's - small offices, service businesses, and apartments. Since then, one or another of the properties at this address such as the Shade Shop #198, has enjoyed a few prosperous years. On the whole, however, thoroughly inappropriate uses for such an architectural asset had persisted. In this same year at #194, the first floor was utilized for the Jet White Laundry and second floor for the Sports Arena Skating Rink. This building sold for as little as \$5,000 as recently as 1962 after falling into a sad state of disrepair.

Kings Courtyard Inn was opened in November 1983 following an 8 month restoration by Managing General Partner Richard T. Widman. At the time the interior courtyards were created from original light wells and 34 guest rooms were appointed with 18th century reproduction furniture beautifully preserving the antebellum heritage. Meticulous efforts by the partnership are evident in the preservation of the stunning oversized windows favored by the original designer and Victorian accents of stylized columns and delicate ironwork added around the turn of the century. An elegant hostelry offering conveniences expected by discerning inn travelers while preserving historic integrity, Kings Courtyard Inn is pleased to welcome guests once again to this remarkable address in Historic Charleston, South Carolina.



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Sample Packages

Romance Package

Reconnect and refresh in romantic downtown Charleston with a three day, two night getaway for two. Enjoy a dinner with an exquisite fine dining experience. Return your room and relish in turndown service, chocolate covered strawberries, a bottle of champagne and red rose. By day, venture right outside the door of our historic bed and breakfast and discover the beauty of Charleston.

Package Includes:

- 3 days/2 night stay for two in a Deluxe King Room or Suite
- \$100 gift certificate at Circa 1886 with roundtrip rickshaw ride (Gratuity and tax not included)
- Bottle of Champagne, flowers and chocolate covered strawberries
- Breakfast delivered to your room or served in the breakfast room or courtyards
- Afternoon wine and cheese reception

Charleston Family Fun

Between the beaches, history and amazing restaurant scene, Charleston is an appealing vacation destination for the whole family. Many of the city's best discoveries lie just outside your door at The Kings Courtyard Inn. Our Family Fun Package pulls together our favorite family friendly experiences.

Package Includes:

- 3 days/2 night stay
- Tickets to your choice of the South Carolina Aquarium or Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum
- A downtown carriage tour of the city
- A day of exploration at either the Charleston Museum or the Children's Museum
- Breakfast delivered to your room, or served in our breakfast room or courtyards
- Afternoon wine and cheese reception
- We're dog-friendly! Furry family members welcome!