

DISCOVER

South Carolina

2026
VACATION
GUIDE

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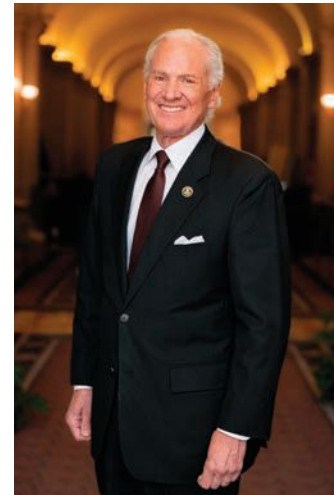
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Welcome to SOUTH CAROLINA



On behalf of the citizens of South Carolina, I'd like to welcome you to the Palmetto State and invite you to explore everything our state has to offer. Hospitality is part of our heritage here, and so are good food, beautiful places and smiling faces.

Our rich cultural heritage, abundant wildlife and our majestic beaches and mountains make South Carolina a destination like no other. We couldn't be happier to have you here with us.

Yours very truly,

Henry Dargan McMaster
Governor of South Carolina



St. Phillips Island



On the Cover

The Jocassee Gorges is a 50,000-acre protected wilderness area of roaring waterfalls, rugged trails and sweeping views from Sassafras Mountain, South Carolina's highest peak.



COME SOAR WITH US!
SALUDA SKYRIDE
 INCLUDED WITH DAYTIME ADMISSION

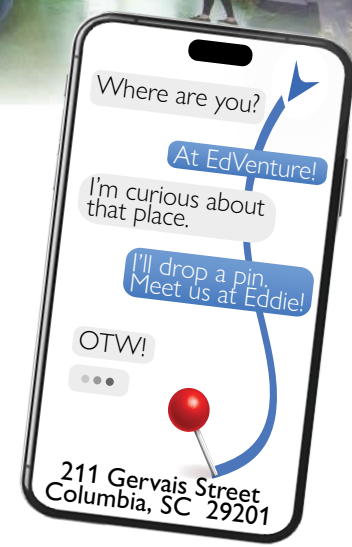
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DISCOVER
 South Carolina

THE BIG Five

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S SIGNATURE CITIES

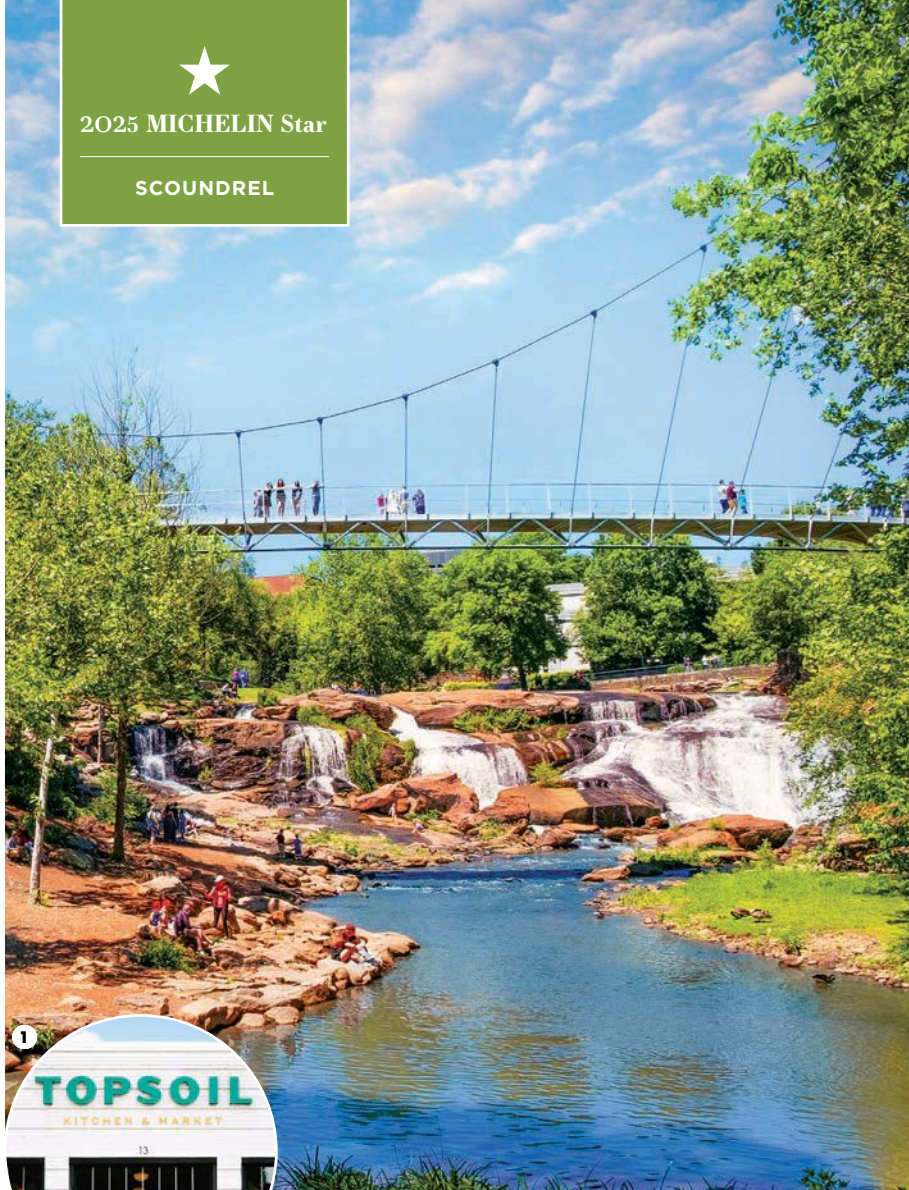
South Carolina's cities each have their own rhythm—a blend of heritage and innovation, nature and nightlife, flavor and flair. From the Blue Ridge foothills to the breezy Lowcountry, these five signature cities capture the essence of the Palmetto State. Explore rich stories, dynamic culture and surprising detours just beyond the main roads.





2025 MICHELIN Star

SCOUNDREL



5 UNEXPECTED DETOURS

1. Falls Park on the Reedy, Greenville 2. Topsoil Kitchen & Market, Travelers Rest 3. Artisphere, Greenville

Greenville

WHERE CULTURE MEETS THE FALLS

Centered around the cascading beauty of **Falls Park on the Reedy**, Greenville pulses with artistic energy and small-city charm. World-class performances light up the **Peace Center**, while signature festivals like **euphoria** and **Artisphere** transform downtown into a lively open-air celebration of food, music and visual arts. The 28-mile **Swamp**

Rabbit Trail threads it all together, connecting neighborhoods, breweries and the vibrant **Unity Park**, where kids cool off in splash fountains and climb all-ages play structures designed for accessibility.

Greenville's culinary scene is just as diverse as it is delightful. Southern staples shine, but global flavors take

center stage; gather around the communal table at **Keipi** for Georgian-style feasts, savor richly spiced lamb at **Aryana Afghan Cuisine** or indulge in Persian lemon-saffron chicken and pomegranate martinis at **Pomegranate on Main**.

For your stay, take your pick between a number of luxe lodging options, such as **Grand Bohemian Lodge**—an upscale mountain-lodge-inspired retreat nestled within Falls Park—or **Hotel Hartness**, a serene escape set on 180 acres of rolling woodland just beyond downtown.



CHELSEY ASHFORD

▶ TOPSOIL KITCHEN & MARKET, TRAVELERS REST

With a 16-acre farm, this James Beard-nominated treasure touts seasonal, hyper-local fare.

▶ TAYLORS MILL, TAYLORS

This century-old textile mill turned creative enclave hosts artists, craft brews and arcade games.

▶ THE SILOS, EASLEY

Converted grain silos house live music and vendors serving international street food, sweet snacks and craft beer.

▶ UPSTATE PINBALL & ARCADE MUSEUM, SIMPSONVILLE

Over 60 classic pinball machines and vintage video arcade games mean all-ages fun.

▶ CEDAR FALLS PARK, FOUNTAIN INN

Scenic trails, historical mill remnants and waterfalls on the Reedy River beckon.



5 UNEXPECTED DETOURS

ATALAYA CASTLE, MURRELLS INLET

Visit this oceanside castle, once home to a world-renowned sculptor.

WORLD FAMOUS BLUE CRAB FESTIVAL, LITTLE RIVER

May 16-17, get your fill of fresh shellfish and fishing-village charm.

RIVERTOWN BISTRO, CONWAY

Taste inventive, Southern-inspired global dishes by South Carolina Chef Ambassador Darren Smith.

THE HAMMOCK SHOPS VILLAGE, PAWLEYS ISLAND

Charming shops beneath moss-draped trees tout beachy fashions and gifts.

MANSFIELD PLANTATION, GEORGETOWN

Experience a centuries-old estate at this 1700s rice plantation and filming site of *The Patriot*.



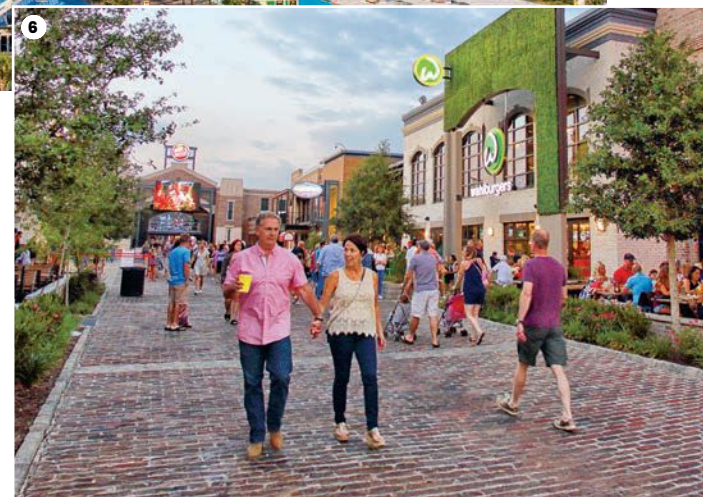
Myrtle Beach

HIGH-ENERGY, HIGH-FUN

Myrtle Beach is made for memory-making. Stroll the lively stretch of **Broadway at the Beach**, where theatrical shows, ball games, go-karts, mini-golf, wildlife exhibits and water slides offer nonstop fun for all ages. Many attractions, including **Ripley's Aquarium** and **Sky Zone**, feature sensory-friendly options for inclusive adventures.

Car lovers can ogle vintage muscle cars and memorabilia at **Wheels of Yesteryear** then head to **Redline Simcade** in Surfside Beach for high-speed virtual reality racing thrills.

Craving robust flavors with ocean views? Dig into creamy chipotle shrimp chimichangas or blackened mahi tacos at **Salt & Lime** or check out **Guy Fieri's Downtown**



Flavortown, slated to open in 2026, which will be home to a tiki bar, bowling alley and arcade all under one wild roof.

For a break from the bustle, kick back and sip craft brews at **New South Brewing**, or explore the powerful stories at **The Historic Myrtle Beach Colored**

School Museum & Education Center.

Ride the **SkyWheel** for glowing sunset views, then head up to North Myrtle Beach for beachy tunes at **Fat Harold's Beach Club**, an institution since 1955 and the home of South Carolina's state dance, the Shag.



DISCOVER *Conway*

SHOP | DINE | EXPLORE

Conway has so much to offer! Enjoy the historic charm, local shops, delicious restaurants, boating & kayaking, special events & festivities, theatre performances, award-winning golf and Coastal Carolina University athletics.



2026 EVENTS

CONWAY RIVERFEST - JUNE 27
CHRISTMAS PARADE - DECEMBER 12

DISCOVER

South Carolina



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5 UNEXPECTED DETOURS

STRIPED PIG DISTILLERY, NORTH CHARLESTON

Take a tour and taste house-distilled spirits such as Striped Southern Pecan Bourbon whiskey.

STONO MARKET & TOMATO SHED CAFÉ, JOHNS ISLAND

Dig into fresh Lowcountry fare in a market-meets-diner setting.

CIDERHOUSE PIE CAFÉ & ESPRESSO BAR, SUMMERVILLE

Stop for a specialty coffee drink and a freshly baked pie or cookie.

CAW CAW INTERPRETIVE CENTER, RAVENEL

Over 6 miles of trails and marsh boardwalks reward birders and wildlife watchers.

CHARLESTON ARTIST COLLECTIVE, MOUNT PLEASANT

Shop for local works at this art gallery brimming with indie flair.



Charleston

TIMELESS, TASTEFUL AND
ALWAYS IN BLOOM

Charleston is pure cinematic charm: pastel-painted mansions along **Rainbow Row**, centuries-old oaks at **Middleton Place** (home of a Declaration of Independence signer) and quaint cobblestone streets. But this city doesn't just preserve the past—it continually reimagines the present. Explore bold perspectives at the **International African American Museum** or discover contemporary

creativity at **The Gibbes Museum of Art**.

The food scene is just as inspired. Savor edible art at the omakase-style **Raw Lab**, go bold with spicy Sichuan dishes at **Kwei Fei**, savor premium cuts of steak at **Marbled & Fin** or indulge in Southern-style seafood at James Beard-nominated **Chubby Fish** or Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards-winner **Revival**. Anchor your visit with marquee events like **Art**



Charleston (April 22-26) or **Charleston Wine + Food** (March 4-8), which infuse even more culture into the mix.

Stay in style with riverfront suites at **The**

Cooper or the chic new **Hotel Richemont** downtown. Then, let the day drift to a close with a golden-hour sail aboard the **Schooner Pride**.



2025 MICHELIN Star

VERN'S

WILD COMMON

MALAGÓN MERCADO
Y TAPERIA

Sea.Life.

Connect with wildlife at the South Carolina Aquarium on the waterfront in downtown Charleston! Encounter thousands of animals, see the expansive Great Ocean Tank and explore the Sea Turtle Care Center™ where sick and injured sea turtles are rehabilitated for release back to the wild.

Visit today!
scaquarium.org

DISCOVER
South Carolina



South Carolina
Aquarium



5 UNEXPECTED DETOURS

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK, HOPKINS

Experience towering trees, boardwalk trails, kayak routes and synchronous fireflies (May/June).

HARBISON STATE FOREST, COLUMBIA

Find 18 miles of hiking and biking trails, plus free programming, just minutes from downtown.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN UNLIMITED, LITTLE MOUNTAIN

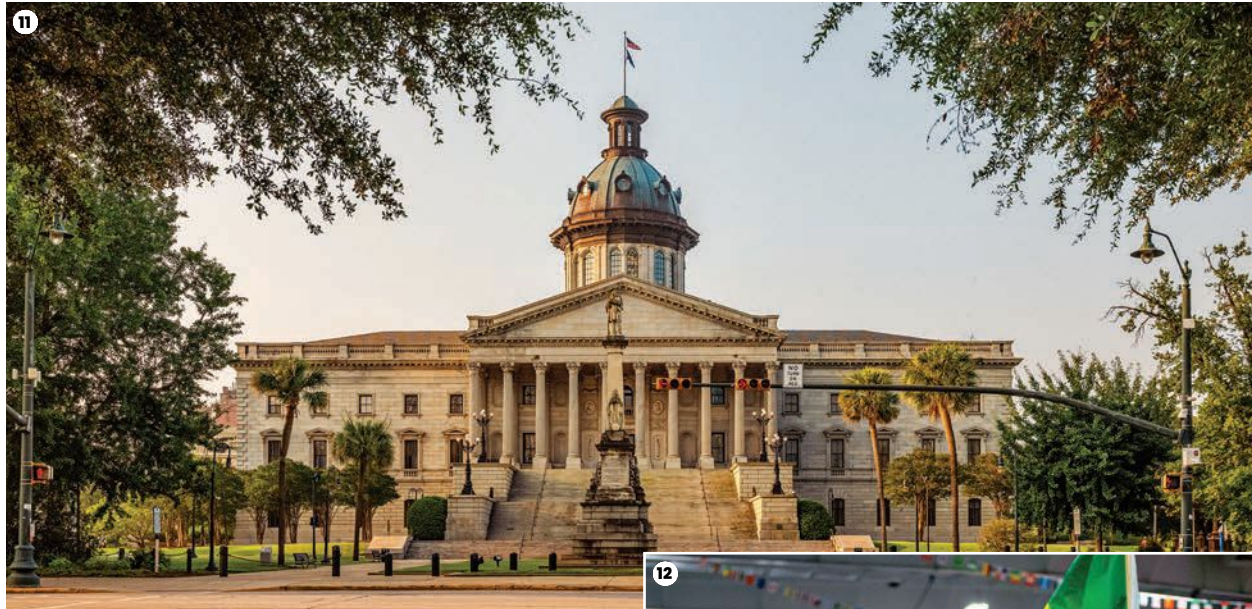
Explore quirky antiques and hidden treasures, then grab lunch at the on-site cafe.

LAURA'S TEA ROOM, RIDGEWAY

Enjoy a midday spot of tea with warm scones and Devonshire cream.

TERROR FALLS HAUNTED FARM, GASTON

Four spooky attractions bring seasonal thrills and chills.



Columbia

HEART OF THE PALMETTO STATE

Columbia strikes a bold balance—capital city meets college-town cool, with a creative streak all its own. Explore preserved mansions, storied neighborhoods and important African American history sites with **Historic Columbia** tours, or soak up river views when you meander along the scenic **West Columbia Riverwalk Park**. Swing by the **South Carolina State House** for a free tour of its grand architecture and radiant stained glass,

then toast the town with rooftop cocktails at **Moxy Columbia Downtown**. Then indulge in French fare and fine wine at **Hampton Street Vineyard**.

The city hums with local pride at events like the Saturday morning **Soda City Market**, named #1 Farmers Market in the country by *USA Today's* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. At the **Cottontown Art Crawl** (March 7), artists, vendors, musicians and food trucks take



over the streets. Don't miss the **Columbia International Festival** (April 18-19), a colorful celebration of global cultures and cuisines.

When the sun sets, **The Vista** district comes alive.

Catch live music at **Tin Roof**, sip thoughtfully curated vintages at **Lula Drake Wine Parlour** or go wild with woodsy, elevated dishes like elk bolognese at **The Hollow**.

Hilton Head Island

COASTAL COOL WITH SOUTHERN SOUL

Hilton Head Island doesn't rush. It invites you to slow down and savor. Start your day with a sunrise stroll along the wide, quiet sands of **Folly Field Beach Park**, which also offers beach matting for wheelchair access. Embark on a dolphin-watching cruise from **Shelter**

Cove Harbour & Marina, where you also can browse coastal-inspired boutiques, dine on the waterfront and catch a seasonal fireworks show. Dive deeper into the island's natural and cultural heritage at the free **Coastal Discovery Museum**, a Smithsonian affiliate with historical exhibits,

nature trails and the kick-off spot for **Gullah Heritage Trail Tours**.

In spring, sip and savor your way through the **Hilton Head Island Food & Wine Festival** (March 22-28), or return in the fall for the fast-paced excitement of the **Multi Hull Beach Regatta**.

Tee off at The Sea Pines Resort's **Harbour Town Golf Links**, the famed Pete Dye course and home of the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, a PGA TOUR event, or just enjoy the view from the clubhouse. For dinner, indulge in seafood served every-which-way at waterfront spots such as **Skull Creek Boathouse** and **Benny's Coastal Kitchen**, and then kick back with concerts, lawn games and craft beers at **The Bank**.



5 UNEXPECTED DETOURS

▶ BLUFFTON GULLAH CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER, BLUFFTON

Celebrate the vibrant traditions and stories of the Gullah Geechee community.

▶ SERGEANT JASPER PARK, HARDEEVILLE

Bring the family for tranquil trails, fishing, boating, birdwatching and disc golf at this 321-acre park.

▶ CAROLINA CIDER COMPANY & CLOCKWISE COFFEE, YEMASSEE

Stock up on local cider, pastries, sweets and sips at this rustic roadside shop.

▶ THE IRON FISH GALLERY, DAUFUSKIE ISLAND

Explore coastal-inspired metalworks by artist Chase Allen.

▶ MERRICK DAFFODIL FARM, BLUFFTON

Pick your own springtime bouquet at this seasonal, family-owned daffodil farm.

THE GREENEST GREENS

GOLF COURSES PRESERVING
SOUTH CAROLINA'S WILD SIDE

BY PERRY BAKER



1

When it comes to South Carolina, one word rises to the top: beautiful. From sun-drenched coastlines in the Lowcountry and Grand Strand to the leafy peaks of the Upstate and the winding rivers and lakes of the Midlands, the Palmetto State is rich in natural splendor.

For golfers, beauty isn't just a bonus—

it's essential. Luckily, South Carolina delivers, with more than 350 courses that blend challenging play with unforgettable scenery. From iconic PGA TOUR stops in Hilton Head Island, Myrtle Beach and Greer to hidden gems off the beaten path, there's a course here for every swing.

But there's something else that sets South

Carolina golf apart: a deep respect for nature.

Across the state, many courses are part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, a partnership with the Audubon Society and United States Golf Association that champions eco-friendly land management and wildlife conservation. Playing here means teeing off on fairways

that not only challenge your game but also protect the plants and animals that make each course uniquely South Carolinian.

Whether you're chasing birdies (and spotting birds) on bucket-list courses or soaking in the serenity of state parks, South Carolina's greens are "greener" in every sense of the word.



2

1. Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island 2. Cheraw State Park, Cheraw

THE ART OF *Conquest*

At Kiawah Island Golf Resort golf is never just a game. It's the ultimate test of endurance. Where forces of nature conspire with designs by Dye, Player, Nicklaus and Fazio to masterfully set the stage for a showcase of triumph and strategy. A striking stretch of South Carolina shoreline that pushes limits and rewards determination.

ROOTED IN *hospitality*



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GOLFING GETAWAYS

Scan the QR code to explore South Carolina's lauded golf scene, from legendary links to challenging mountain courses.

MUST-PLAY COURSES

KIAWAH ISLAND GOLF RESORT, KIAWAH ISLAND

Five distinct courses, five unforgettable challenges—each crafted by a legendary designer.

- ▶ The Ocean Course: Pete Dye's masterpiece is home to the famous 1991 Ryder Cup and multiple PGA Championships. It's windswept, wild and stunning.
- ▶ Cougar Point: This Gary Player design touts sweeping marsh views and player-friendly fairways.
- ▶ Turtle Point: A thinking golfer's course by Jack Nicklaus, expect oceanfront holes and strategic shot demands.
- ▶ Oak Point: Nestled by the Kiawah River, this Clyde Johnston course charms with forested beauty and fresh design.
- ▶ Osprey Point: A Tom Fazio gem, it offers a true test from tee to green amidst barrier island landscapes.

THE SEA PINES RESORT, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

A world-class trio that's as scenic as it is legendary.

- ▶ Harbour Town Golf Links: A beloved PGA TOUR stop

with tight fairways and tiny greens, it recently underwent a full re-grassing.

- ▶ Heron Point by Pete Dye: Bold and playful, it's packed with classic Dye challenges.
- ▶ Atlantic Dunes by Davis Love III: This redesign marries Lowcountry charm with modern playability.

CHERAW STATE PARK GOLF COURSE, CHERAW

Set along the shores of Lake Juniper, this Tom Jackson-designed course is framed by towering pines. A renovation is planned for March through September 2026, so get your rounds in early or prepare your game for the fall.

PALMETTO DUNES OCEANFRONT RESORT: HILTON HEAD ISLAND

On the Robert Trent Jones Course, water comes into play on more than half the holes, capped by the showstopping ocean view at the par-5 10th.

SPECIAL MENTION: OLD SOUTH GOLF LINKS, BLUFFTON

GEO Certified for sustainability, this course is as committed to eco-friendly practices as it is to great golf, offering stunning Lowcountry views to boot.



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Revolutionary Roots



TRACING THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

As America celebrates the 250th anniversary of its independence this year, South Carolina invites you to walk the very ground where the fight for freedom was won—not by distant generals alone, but by farmers, blacksmiths, women and frontiersmen who turned their everyday lives into acts of resistance.

THE SKIRMISHES & THE STORIES

Nowhere was the Revolutionary War fought more fiercely—or more frequently—than here. With more than 200 battles and skirmishes, South Carolina saw more combat than any other colony, and many of those clashes reshaped the war's trajectory. From the **Battle of Musgrove** **Mill State Historic Site** to **Buford Battle Ground Monument**, every skirmish tells a story of ingenuity, heartbreak and hope.

In Camden, the sting of defeat reminded Patriots that even in loss, resilience could be forged. Learn their

story through exhibits and programming at the **Revolutionary War Visitor Center at Camden**, **Camden Battlefield** and **Longleaf Pine Preserve**. Farther south, **Fort Moultrie's** palmetto log walls absorbed British cannon fire in 1776, inspiring South Carolina's nickname as the Palmetto State.

In Blacksburg's hills of **Kings Mountain National Military Park**, a band of rugged frontiersmen encircled and defeated British Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist troops in a stunning grassroots victory. It was the first major Southern win after the invasion of Charleston, proving that the American spirit couldn't be crushed.

1. Eutaw Springs Battlefield, Eutawville
2. Kershaw-Cornwallis House, Camden



STEADFAST FACES REVOLUTIONARY PLACES

Did you know the state of South Carolina had arguably more Revolutionary War battles and skirmishes than any other colony? The victories of the Southern Campaign and the fortitude of the Patriots turned the tide of the war from a stalemate with the British to the development of America.

www.SCRevWar.com



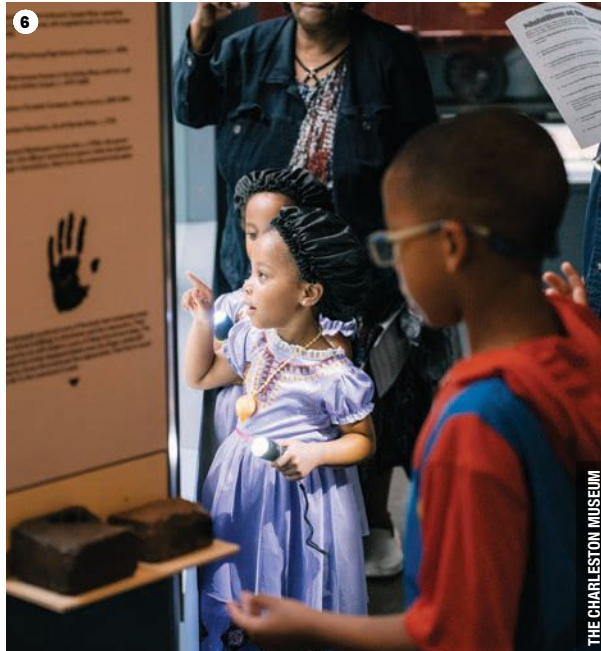
Revolutionary SOUTH CAROLINA

It Happened Here.

South Carolina's Revolutionary history embodies the American story of ingenuity, resilience, and the relentless and ongoing pursuit of independence told through the diverse voices of those who shaped it. Whether it's a visit to one of our historic battlegrounds or discovering your ancestral roots, we invite you to discover your South Carolina story as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of America's Independence from Britain.



VISIT SC250.COM



Just months later at **Cowpens National Battlefield** in Gaffney, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan pulled off a tactical masterpiece; his double envelopment of Tarleton's forces became a maneuver studied in military academies around the world.

At **Eutaw Springs Battlefield** in Eutawville, the war's bloodiest Southern battle unfolded in a grueling five-hour clash that marked the last major encounter in the Carolinas.

HONORING THE HEROES

South Carolina's battlefields are not

only preserved, they're revered. Three burial sites honor heroes whose legacies still echo through the land they helped liberate.

At Francis Marion's resting place in Pineville, visitors pay respect to the "Swamp Fox," whose stealth and swamp-born tactics tormented British forces. Thomas Sumter, the fiery "Gamecock" of Stateburg, earned his reputation with bold raids that left the British command in disarray. And at Isaac Hayne's grave in Jacksonboro, the story turns somber; his execution became a rallying cry that fanned the final flames of rebellion.

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS: EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Scan the QR code to find events celebrating this milestone anniversary. Whether you're exploring artifacts at *Ringleaders of Rebellion* (Jan. 31-Sept. 20) at **The Charleston Museum** or watching muskets fire and fifes play during Colonial Day at **Old Santee Canal Park** in Moncks Corner, South Carolina's past comes vividly to life.



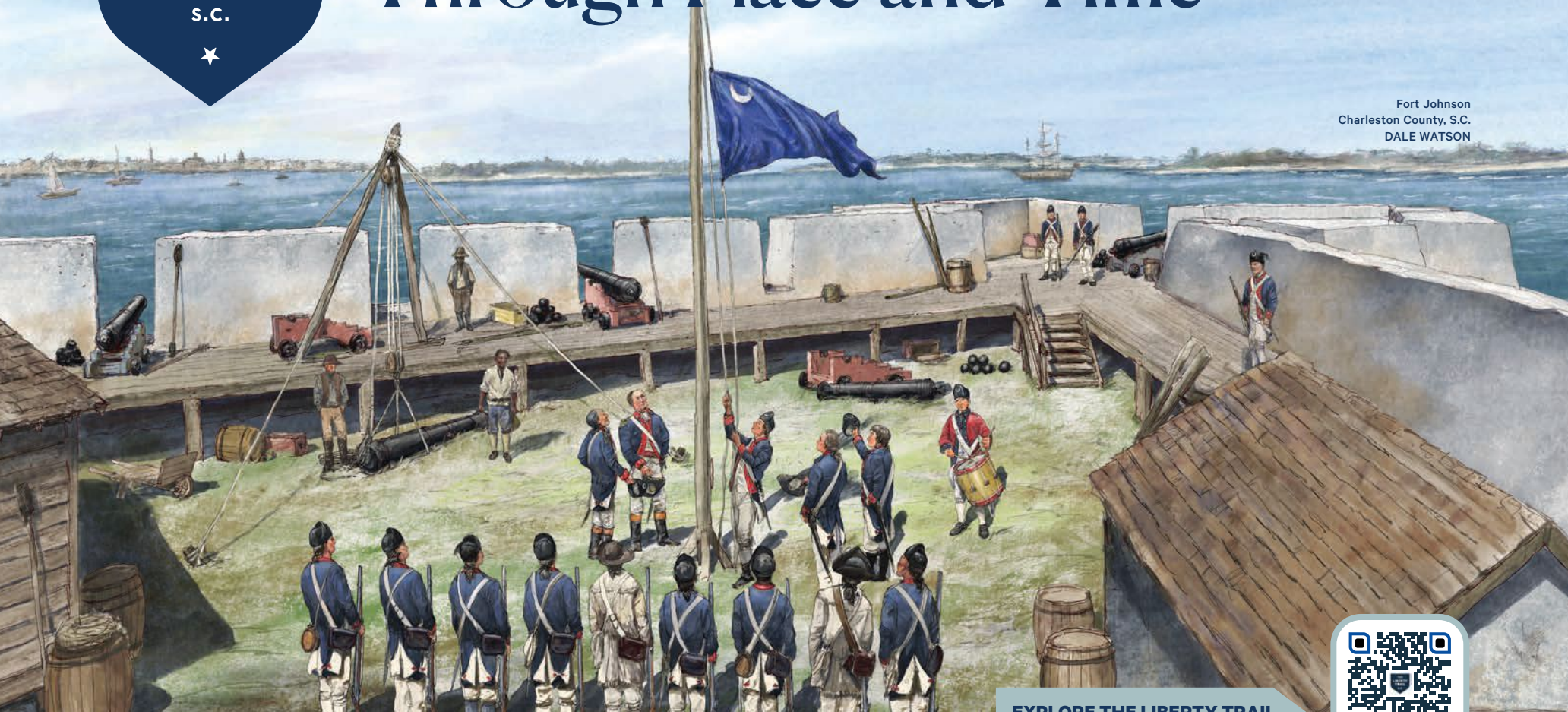
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An Unforgettable Journey Through Place and Time

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EXPLORE THE LIBERTY TRAIL



THELIBERTYTRAIL.ORG is your free guide to experiencing
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AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★



SOUTH CAROLINA
BATTLEGROUND
PRESERVATION TRUST



Go with the Grands

SOUTH CAROLINA OFFERS THE PERFECT BLEND OF ADVENTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR GRANDPARENTS TRAVELING WITH KIDS AND TEENS OF ALL AGES.

Start your journey at **Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum** in Mount Pleasant, where kids can explore the historic *USS Yorktown* aircraft carrier. The museum is wheelchair accessible and has quiet spaces for those needing sensory breaks.

Just across the harbor, the **South Carolina Aquarium** in Charleston captivates visitors with touch tanks and the mesmerizing Great Ocean Tank. This two-story tank holds sharks and even a 220-pound loggerhead sea turtle. The aquarium has wheelchairs to lend and an accessible vehicle for those who need transportation from the parking garage to the entrance. The Aquarium also has weighted

lap pads and sensory bags filled with noise-reducing headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards and modified maps that indicate “headphone zones” and quiet areas.

Columbia’s **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden** combines wildlife encounters with beautiful botanical displays. The zoo’s accessible pathways and rest areas make it comfortable for multi-generational visits, while the splash pad offers cooling relief for active grandkids. Look for special sensory-friendly nights where the zoo offers dimmed lighting, softer music and plenty of quiet zones. Nearby **Sesquicentennial State Park** offers even more nature to explore, with a 30-acre lake and plenty of walking paths,

1. Riverbanks Zoo & Garden, Columbia



including the easy Sandhills Hiking Trail.

Farther upstate, the **South Carolina Botanical Garden** in Clemson provides peaceful walking trails and educational programs perfect for curious minds of all ages.

Golf enthusiasts shouldn't miss **Wild Dunes Golf Resort** on the Isle of Palms, where family golf lessons accommodate beginners alongside experienced

players. The resort's patient instructors excel at teaching young golfers while keeping grandparents engaged.

Several South Carolina state parks host family-friendly fishing lessons, such as the Saltwater Pier Fishing Clinic at **Hunting Island State Park**, where experienced guides teach proper techniques to anglers of all ages. These free programs provide all equipment and



focus on conservation education alongside the thrill of the catch.

The **Myrtle Beach Pinball Museum** offers a nostalgic trip for grandparents while introducing kids to classic arcade games. With over 25 playable machines, it's a hands-on history lesson that spans generations.

Take the whole family out to the ballgame. Minor League Baseball games

provide affordable entertainment, with the GreenJackets at **SRP Park** in North Augusta and Hub City Spartanburgers at **Fifth Third Park** in Spartanburg. Both venues offer accessible seating to make America's pastime enjoyable for everyone. The relaxed atmosphere in both parks allows for conversation between innings while kids enjoy the interactive fan zones.



2. South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston 3. Fifth Third Park, Spartanburg 4. Sesquicentennial State Park, Columbia

BATTLE OF THE BARBECUE

AWARD-WINNING “PIT” STOPS

In South Carolina, barbecue is more than a meal—it’s a way of life. Skillful pitmasters combine culinary techniques they’ve picked up through the years to bring communities together and stoke the flames of friendly competition. Explore some of the award-winning joints that make the local barbecue scene mouthwatering.

South Carolina boasts a who’s who of elite establishments, where award-winning pitmasters serve up perfection daily. At Charleston’s **Lewis Barbecue** (named a Hidden Gem on the 2025 Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Awards: Best of the Best Restaurants list), John Lewis slices Texas-style ‘cue to order. Menu anchors include the usual suspects—beef brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey and ribs—plus green chile cheddar sausage, gooey from the cheese and a spicy kick from the chile, and Texas hot guts sausage (that’s

beef with a little pork and a whole lot of snap, thanks to Lewis’ three-day curing process).

Another Charleston institution (just follow the scent of smoked meats down King Street), **Rodney Scott’s Whole Hog BBQ** is a passion project come to life for Scott, a James Beard Award-winning chef. His method is time-consuming, no doubt—chopping wood, tending the fire, shoveling coals and smoking an entire hog for 12 hours, give or take—but so worth it when that pork melts in your mouth, its smokiness mixing with the tang of Scott’s vinegar-based sauce. You also can’t go wrong with the cornmeal-coated, fried catfish, earthy collard greens and steaming hush puppies on the side.

Beloved for generous portions of hand-pulled pork cooked low and slow over hickory wood, **Henry’s Smokehouse** stands on sandwiches—pork, of course, but

THE GREAT SAUCE DIVIDE

Across the state, four distinct barbecue sauces define regional tastes.

Mustard:

Rooted in the culinary traditions of German immigrants who settled in central South Carolina, “Carolina Gold” delivers a sweet and tangy punch that pairs perfectly with pulled pork.

Heavy Tomato:

Like the thick, sweet styles of similar barbecue sauces, heavy tomato includes brown sugar and molasses, forming a glaze that sticks to ribs and chicken.

1

1. City Limits Barbeque, West Columbia

also hash and smoked chicken, all with or without coleslaw on top of your choice of a tomato-based mild or mustardy spicy sauce. The hand-cut fries, golden and piled high, are a top side, and Southern classics like green beans, mac 'n' cheese and sweet potato casserole come in a close second. All are served with a healthy helping of Greenville hospitality, so really, it's no wonder *Southern Living* recognized it as the state's best in 2024.

In nearby Spartanburg, pitmaster Todd Smith's **Smoking Butt Heads BBQ** boasts the traditional menu items, plus some you see on the competition circuit but not often in restaurants, like pork medallions—smoked tenderloin sliced into rounds and sauced. Smoking Butt Heads has been open only a few years, but in 2024, *Southern Living* named it one of the South's Best New Barbecue Joints.

City Limits Barbeque has no set menu, is open weekends only and once it's out of an item, it's out—but none of that stops barbecue aficionados from lining up outside this smokin' West Columbia spot, crowned Best Barbecue Joint in the South by *Southern Living* in 2025. They come for the brisket, peppery bark on the outside of a crimson smoke ring; savory hash and rice drizzled with sweet mustard sauce; and creamy banana pudding topped with soft vanilla wafers. All these delights are courtesy of Robbie Robinson, two-time runner for the James Beard Award for Outstanding Chef.

Want to become a pit boss yourself? Head to Greenville to learn the intricacies of smoking meats, blending rubs and perfecting sauces with Wayne Preston of **Bucky's Bar-B-Q**. (Check buckysbbq.com for upcoming classes.)



GET THE BBQ TRAIL MAP

Bite into the "Birthplace of Barbecue" with this comprehensive guide to some of the state's most legendary barbecue joints.



Light Tomato:

A bridge between Eastern and Western styles of barbecue, the light tomato sauce is similar to a ketchup—slightly sweet while retaining the tang of its vinegar base.

Vinegar:

This thin, sharp sauce harkens back to the earliest of colonial barbecue traditions. Its black pepper cuts through the richness of pork with a bright, acidic bite.

PIG OUT AT COOK-OFFS

- ▶ **SC BBQ SHAG FESTIVAL, MARCH**
Dancers and pitmasters gather in Hemingway to smoke meat and do "the swing dance of the South," the Shag.
- ▶ ***HUB CITY HOG FEST, APRIL**
Pork, ribs, chicken wings and brisket—plus local bands and family fun—are on the menu in Spartanburg.
- ▶ **SOUTH CAROLINA FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY, JULY**
Smoky ribs meet soulful blues in this Greenwood stirring of the senses.
- ▶ **UNIQUELY UNION FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER**
A Taster's Choice cook-off award lets you be the judge of the competition teams.
- ▶ ***MAULDIN BBQ COOK-OFF, SEPTEMBER**
Seasoned pros to up-and-coming pitmasters from all over the Southeast gather to smoke the competition.

**South Carolina Barbeque Association-sanctioned events*





PROVISIONS & PLATES

in South Carolina

Across the Palmetto State, a new wave of gourmet markets with on-site eateries are redefining how we eat, shop and connect. These aren't your average grocery runs: expect curated pantries, inventive menus and the kind of local hospitality that turns errands into experiences. Whether you're grabbing a croissant with your coffee, savoring a seasonal lunch or loading up on local produce, these destination markets invite you to linger.

Just off the Swamp Rabbit Trail, **Swamp Rabbit Cafe & Grocery** is a Greenville staple for cyclists, families and foodies alike. Helmed by South Carolina Chef Ambassador and kitchen manager Jeanne Koenigsberg, this community-focused market is stocked with local fruits and vegetables, meats and artisan goods, supporting over 300 South Carolina farmers and makers. Grab a

refreshing smoothie or a seasonal sandwich before filling your basket with handmade granola and farm-fresh eggs.

Bright, airy and deeply local, **Lowcountry Fresh Market & Cafe** brings Bluffton flavors to the market. The cafe turns wild-caught seafood and locally grown produce into Southern-style lunches—think Eggs Benedict with pimento cheese—while shelves overflow with Lowcountry specialties like stone-ground grits, pickled okra and just-baked breads.

A Columbia institution since the '70s, **The Gourmet Shop** in Five Points blends European-cafe charm with elevated grocery fare. Sip a mimosa with a Belgian waffle or savor their beloved chicken salad before browsing a tempting selection of chocolates, charcuterie, cookware and global treats. (Tip: dining on the sidewalk patio is practically a local rite of passage.)

1. The Gourmet Shop, Columbia 2. Swamp Rabbit Cafe & Grocery, Greenville

Inside a historic cigar factory, **Mercantile and Mash** pairs Charleston cool with pantry inspiration. The gourmet food emporium sells curated condiments, seasonings and treats, while the casual eatery offers hearty breakfasts, sandwiches and locally roasted coffee. Delight in the Reuben sandwich on housemade marbled rye, then pick up dinner provisions on your way out.

At **Daniela's Downtown Market & Deli**, the Holy City meets old-world Italy in a cozy, high-end grocery run by Chef Natasha Cline. Deli displays beckon with lacquered pastries, while shelves are stocked with gleaming jars of sauces and fruits. The intimate cafe serves loaded-up sandwiches like roasted eggplant marinara or breaded chicken cutlet with sun-dried tomato-aioli. This gem is a locals' lunch favorite.

A tiny blue shop beneath a moss-draped oak, **Flowers Seafood Company** is a seafood market and open-air eatery that embodies the unpolished charm of Edisto Island. The family-run business sells fresh-off-the-boat shrimp, blue crabs and oysters, but don't miss the food truck out front serving fried shrimp baskets and Lowcountry boils straight to your picnic table.

3. Mercantile and Mash, Charleston



ROADSIDE MARKETS

South Carolina's Certified Roadside Markets—vetted by the SC Department of Agriculture—offer a taste of the state's finest homegrown and handmade goods, often just steps from the field. Pick up anything from peaches to peanuts.

► Beechwood Farms, Marietta

Pick your own berries and sunflowers or browse the country store for freshly prepared produce.

► Table Rock Tea Company, Pickens

Shop for American-grown tea and see how it's made with a farm tour.

► Whispering Pines Farm - Dairy - Cheesery, Seneca

See the friendly farm animals, then stock up on small-batch cheeses made from goat, sheep and cow milk.

► The Peach Stand, Fort Mill

At this local grocer, shop premium meats, local jams and—you guessed it—peaches, at their juicy peak.

ANDREW CEBULKA

WHERE TO *Elope* IN SOUTH CAROLINA

For couples dreaming of a wedding day that's deeply personal, wildly romantic and free of fuss, South Carolina delivers. From moss-draped gardens to quiet mountain groves and breezy beaches, the Palmetto State offers elopement backdrops that are unforgettable.

If you've ever imagined saying "I do" in a fairy tale, **Cypress Gardens** in Moncks Corner is pretty close. Beneath

a canopy of towering trees, the secluded Wedding Garden Gazebo is nestled among blooming pathways and cypress knees. Make a cinematic entrance by gliding across the blackwater pond in a flat-bottom boat—quiet, dreamy and straight out of *The Notebook*, which was filmed here.

Tucked into downtown Greenville, **Rock Quarry Garden** transforms a former 1930s stone quarry into a secret

garden with a bit of edge. Dramatic rock walls, cascading waterfalls and terraced flowerbeds create a striking balance of wild and refined. It's the kind of place where every photo feels like a film still and where the city disappears the moment you arrive.

For couples seeking timeless Southern charm, the Gazebo

at the **South Carolina Botanical Garden** is a hidden gem in Clemson. Overlooking a tranquil duck pond and framed by the Camellia Garden, this Japanese-style structure offers peaceful intimacy within 230 acres of beautifully curated nature. It's a poetic place for quiet vows and joyful hearts.

At **Glencairn Garden**, elegance flows as freely

as the water. The Come See Me Cascading Fountain sets a serene tone, with multi-tiered waterfalls surrounded by lush landscaping. Seasonal blooms paint the scene, offering a refined and romantic backdrop for a simple yet stunning ceremony in Rock Hill. Small walk-up ceremonies are welcome, and garden areas can be reserved.

For barefoot brides and ocean-loving couples, Edisto Island brings the magic of the sea to your wedding day. Exchange vows with waves lapping at your feet and seagulls wheeling overhead. **Edisto Beach's** stretch of pristine shoreline promises peace, privacy and panoramic views—just the two of you (and maybe a few dolphins in the distance).

CITY OF ROCK HILL

CREATE *Magical Moments* AT RIVERFRONT PARK

Nestled along the scenic banks of the Cooper River in North Charleston, South Carolina, the **Venues at Riverfront Park** offer a perfect blend of history, charm, and breathtaking Lowcountry beauty. Once a hidden gem, this former naval base has been reimagined into a stunning wedding and event venue, capturing the essence of Charleston's timeless elegance. From the Spanish moss swaying amongst the oaks to the azalea bushes lining the street, these distinct venues stand out from the rest.



COME DISCOVER WHAT WE ARE ALL
ABOUT HERE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY.

Contact our Venue Coordinator at RiverfrontPark@NorthCharleston.org
or (843) 308-4746 to learn more.



DISCOVER
South Carolina



STATE PARKS *After Dark*



When the sun sets over South Carolina, its state parks don't go to sleep—they come alive with mystery, moonlight and magic. From quiet lakeside paddles to stargazing under some of the darkest skies on the East Coast, these after-dark programs invite visitors to experience nature's wild side in a whole new light—or lack thereof.

At **Croft State Park** in Spartanburg, the Sunset Paddle offers a peaceful passage from day into night. As dusk deepens over Lake Craig, canoes glide across glassy waters lit by the full moon. The rustle of leaves and the distant call of owls provide a natural soundtrack to this 90-minute experience, open to ages 10 and up.

At **Cheraw State Park**, the Moonlight Canoe Float takes paddlers across the 361-acre Lake Juniper. Timed with the lunar calendar, this three-hour guided journey reveals the lake's beauty under starlight. Keep an ear out for frogs and an eye out for nocturnal creatures. Canoes are available to borrow, or bring your own. Ages 14+.

Trade flashlights for moonlight during the Full Moon Hike at **Sesquicentennial State**

Park near Columbia. This easy, 2-mile guided hike offers insight into the lives of nocturnal animals—and how the forest transforms after dark. Learn to identify nighttime sounds and observe how wildlife adapts when the sun goes down. For novice campers and young adventurers, the park's Palmetto Campout each fall is the perfect introduction to the great outdoors. Learn how to pitch a tent, build a campfire, cook over an open flame, paddle, fish and even sleep in a hammock, all with expert guidance and no gear required.

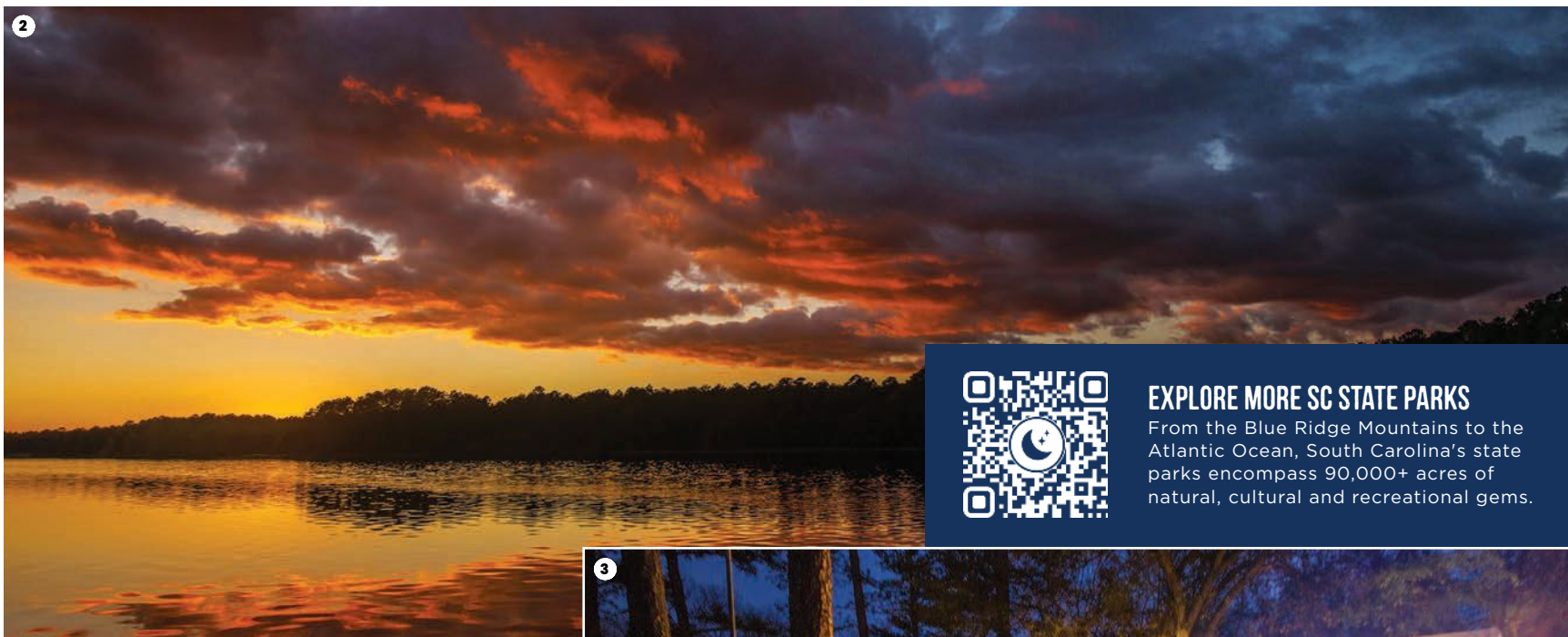
The Sea Turtle Night Walk at **Edisto Beach State Park** is a front-row seat to a timeless marvel, and it is considered one of South Carolina's "Wild Wonders." From May to October, witness loggerhead sea turtles nesting or even tiny hatchlings making their moonlit crawl to the ocean. Led by trained guides, these walks balance wildlife encounters with conservation education. Ages 10+. Learn more at DiscoverSouthCarolina.com/wild-wonders.

Park After Dark at **Hunting Island State Park** blends beachcombing and stargazing into one awe-filled night. Follow a ranger along the

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1. Edisto Beach State Park, Edisto Island

2



EXPLORE MORE SC STATE PARKS

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, South Carolina's state parks encompass 90,000+ acres of natural, cultural and recreational gems.

Nature Center Scenic Trail to the hauntingly beautiful Boneyard Beach. On clear nights, planets like Jupiter and Saturn appear with the naked eye, while binoculars may reveal Uranus and Neptune.

Before light pollution, a clear night revealed thousands of stars. Today, most people are lucky to spot a few hundred. But at **Hampton Plantation State Historic Site** near McClellanville, the night sky still dazzles. Astronomers set up telescopes on the lawn of this historic rice plantation, offering

guests the chance to explore galaxies, planets and deep-sky wonders.

The Atalaya Sleepover at **Huntington Beach State Park** in Murrells Inlet invites guests to spend the night in a real castle. Once the Moorish-style winter retreat of Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington, Atalaya transforms into a magical campsite for one night only—complete with ghost stories, a campfire cookout, s'mores, a beach walk and a morning wildlife tour. Sleep in the courtyard or inside a room—either way, it's a night you won't forget.

3



2. Cheraw State Park, Cheraw 3. Sesquicentennial State Park, Columbia

5 GREAT LAKE ESCAPES



Santee State Park, Lake Marion

When the Carolina sun starts to shine, there's no better way to beat the heat than a lake escape. South Carolina is dotted with sparkling freshwater gems, each offering its own slice of serenity and adventure. Whether you're craving heart-racing fun, lazy days with your toes in the water or even overnight stays, here are five lakes worth packing up the cooler for.

1 LAKE MURRAY

Just outside of Columbia, thrill-seekers can test their wakeboarding skills or slow down with a sunset cruise to Bomb Island, home to roughly 1 million roosting purple martins each summer. Stay at **Dreher Island State Park**, where spacious lakeside villas and cozy camper cabins await.

2 LAKE MARION

Known as the state's "inland sea," Lake Marion is a paradise for anglers. Cast a line for striped bass and catfish at **Santee State Park** or **Relaxed Retreat at Carolina King** in Summerton, where the fishing resort and marina are made for water-centric getaways.

3 LAKE GREENWOOD

This quiet hideaway offers a perfect balance of nature and recreation. Pitch a tent or park an RV at **Lake Greenwood State Park**, where campers can picnic under shady trees, go boating or fishing, birdwatch and meander the 4-mile scenic shoreline trail.

4 LAKE KEOWEE

In the Upcountry, rent a Jet Ski or pontoon boat, then fill up at a lakefront restaurant like the **Cabana at the Lighthouse**. For a bird's-eye view of the lake, don't miss the exhilarating Upstate Zipline at **Keowee-Toxaway State Park** in Sunset.

5 LAKE JOCASSEE

Accessible from **Devils Fork State Park**, Lake Jocassee is a breathtaking wonder at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With unbelievably clear water, scuba divers gear up at **Lake Jocassee Dive Shop** in Salem to explore its depths. Above the surface, stand-up paddleboard or rent a boat to find waterfalls tumbling into the lake.

PET-FRIENDLY STAYS AT *South Carolina State Parks*

△ SANTEE STATE PARK

Bring the whole family—pets included—on your next adventure! Eight of South Carolina's state parks offer select pet-friendly accommodations, from cozy cabins to spacious villas and camper cabins. Plus, pets are always welcome in campgrounds across all our parks. Explore your options at SouthCarolinaParks.com



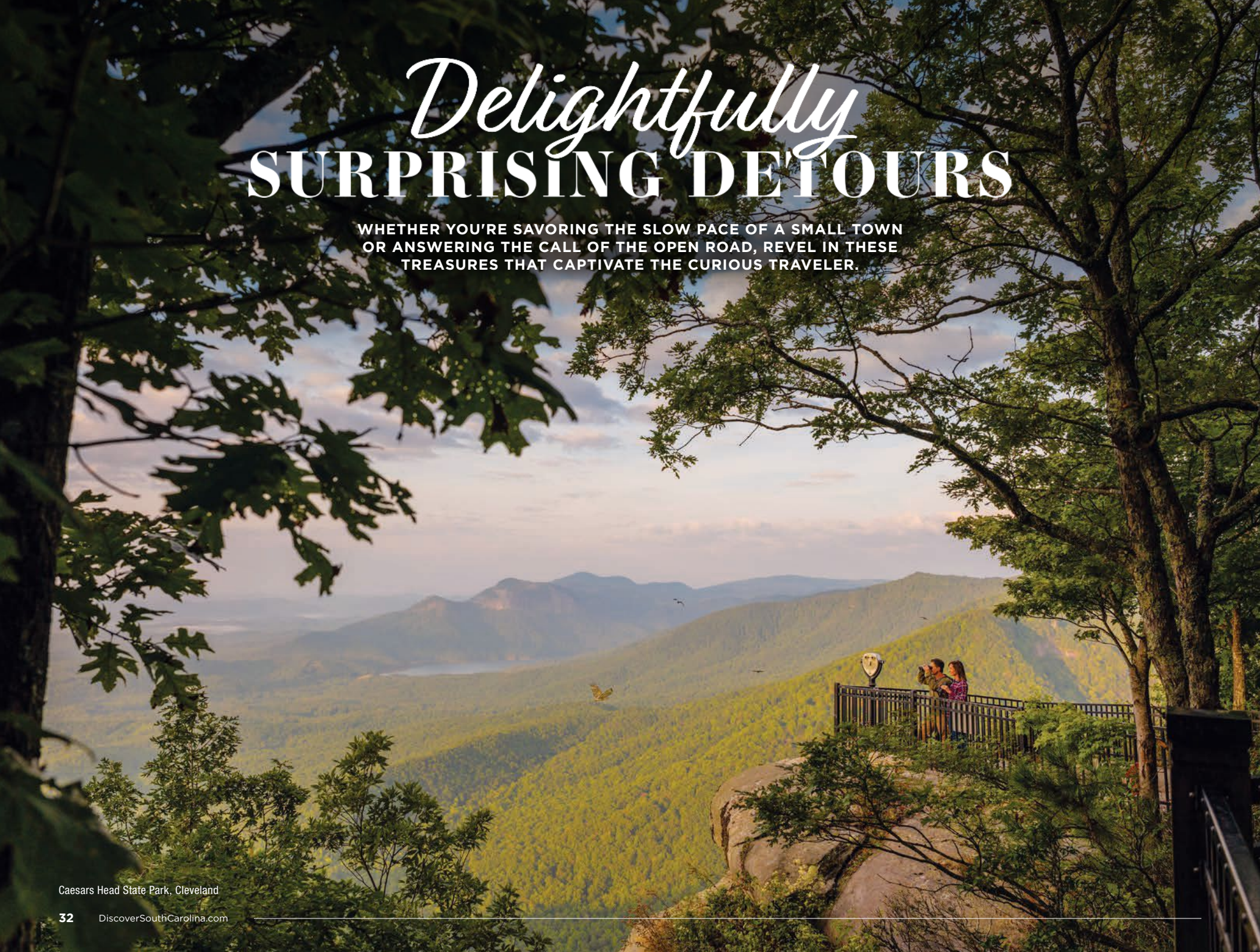
△ DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK



△ OCONEE STATE PARK



△ DEVILS FORK STATE PARK



Delightfully SURPRISING DETOURS

WHETHER YOU'RE SAVORING THE SLOW PACE OF A SMALL TOWN
OR ANSWERING THE CALL OF THE OPEN ROAD, REVEL IN THESE
TREASURES THAT CAPTIVATE THE CURIOUS TRAVELER.

Unconventional STOPS

Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden is the work of a self-taught artist who transformed his Bishopville backyard into a living gallery of trees and shrubs whimsically trimmed to look like something out of a Dr. Seuss book.

Uncover Blackville's local legend: **God's Acre Healing Springs**, where visitors can sip natural spring waters believed to have healing powers. Or reflect in the peaceful gardens of an active Trappist monastery, **Mepkin Abbey** in Moncks Corner.

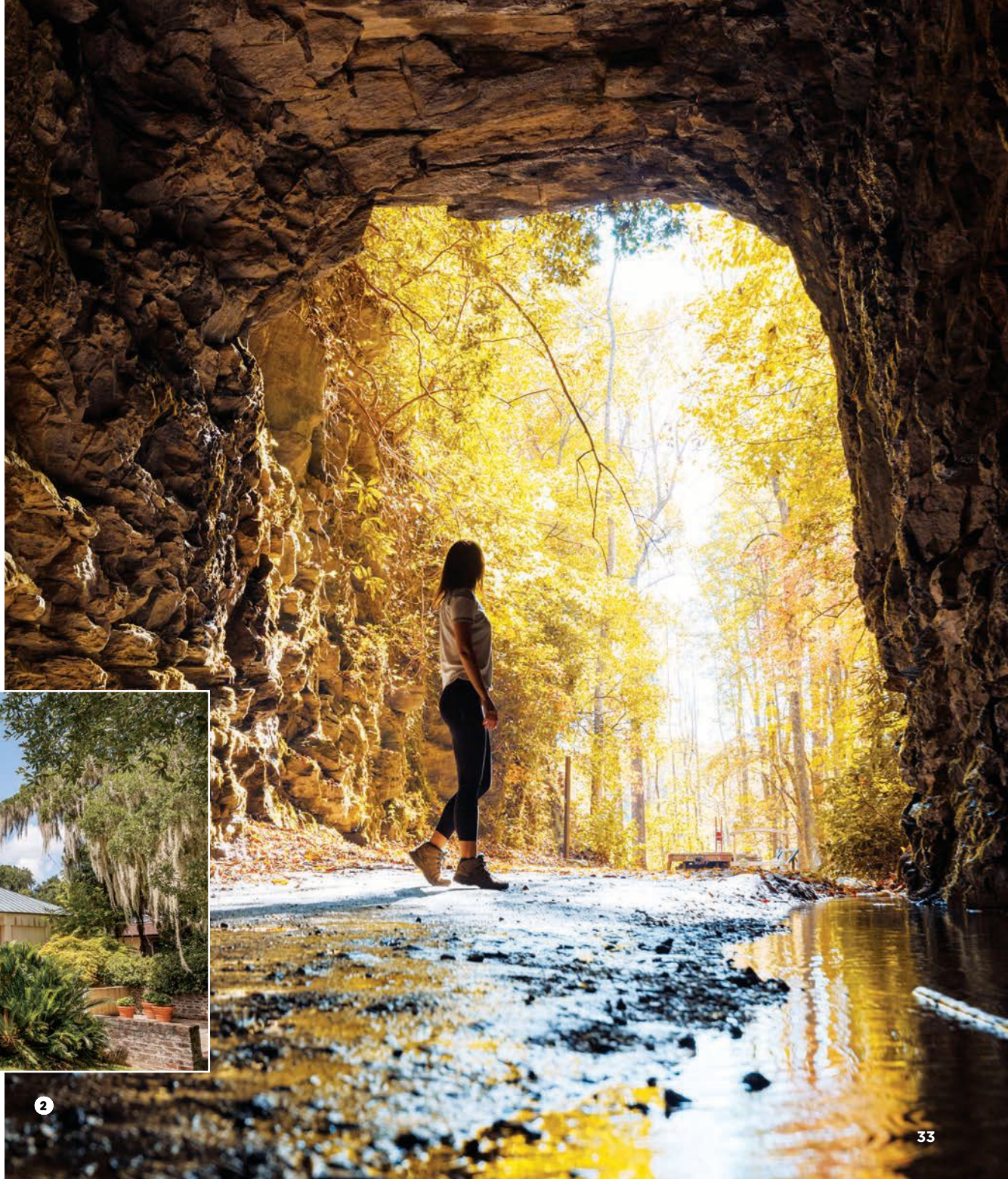
Stumphouse Tunnel in Walhalla is literally cool—it stays 50 degrees year-round. Within the same park, splash at the base of **Issaqueena Falls**, easy

to get to via a short trail. In fall, gather at nearby **Caesars Head State Park** in Cleveland to witness the hawk migration.

Hawking seashells and shark teeth, with photo ops with a Yeti and even Elvis, Myrtle Beach's **Gay Dolphin Gift Cove** is part gift shop, part museum and entirely one of a kind.

Ernest Lee, better known as "**The Chicken Man**," welcomes visitors to his roadside studio in Columbia, where his folk art bursts with color and Southern humor.

For a touch of magic, **Hidden Pasture Unicorn Farm** in Fountain Inn brings fairy tales to life with its enchanting animals.



1. Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner 2. Stumphouse Tunnel, Walhalla

2



STARLITE PHOTOGRAPHY

FESTIVALS WITH LOCAL *Flair*

Warm up with the **World Grits Festival**, an elevation of the humble breakfast staple held each April in St. George.

May's **WHAM!** celebrates Walterboro's history, art and music (W-H-A-M, get it?) with everything from a sweetgrass-basket workshop to colonial dancing.

Farms and markets across the state welcome visitors each May and June as part of the **South Carolina Ag + Art Tour** for an in-person look at fresh produce and the works of local artisans.

Greenwood becomes a photographer's

dream each June, when topiaries of multicolored animals, fun photo ops and even a Jeep Wrangler made entirely of plants line the town as part of the **South Carolina Festival of Flowers**.

Seed spitting is the skill du jour at July's **Pageland Watermelon Festival**, when the state's sweetest summer fruit takes center stage.

Come September, the Hold My Tea bar crawl is part of the **Sweet Tea Festival** in Summerville, the self-proclaimed birthplace of sweet tea.

In October, Georgetown's **Wooden Boat Show** showcases the classic craft with boat-building and a youth sailing regatta, while smoky, spicy aromas fill Loris' streets during the **Loris Bog-Off Festival**, a tribute to chicken bog—a one-pot chicken and rice stew—that, of course, includes a cook-off.

November's **SC Pecan Music & Food Festival** in Florence offers a feast for the senses with pecan-inspired dishes and brews.

And cultural traditions shine through music and storytelling during **A Gullah Christmas Concert** in Mount Pleasant.



3. Sweet Tea Festival, Summerville
4. South Carolina Festival of Flowers, Greenwood

Remarkable PLACES TO REST YOUR HEAD

Imagine arriving at your accommodations not by car, but by canoe or kayak. Welcome to **Carolina Heritage Outfitters**, where treehouses crafted from local lumber rise above the blackwater Edisto River, just out of sight of one another.

Yurts dot the wooded landscape of **Wildwater Chattooga** in Long Creek. Travel down to the rushing river for a whitewater rafting trip, or get your kicks by flying through the zip-lining canopy above.

And in Travelers Rest, **Field Trip Glamping's** wooden A-frames—with air conditioning and real beds complete with throw pillows—appeal to those who like the *idea* of camping but can't live without the comforts of home.

In Spartanburg, step back in time as you step into the bright-red caboose—light, airy and restored to its 1947 glory—at **Clevedale Historic Inn & Gardens**, the scents of wisteria and jasmine wafting in from outside.

In the morning, get a mouthwatering whiff of home cooking for breakfast; B&B owner Pontheolla Abernathy says her favorite dish to serve is goat-cheese grits with shrimp.

Sip coffee with a side of livestock on the patio at **Blu Grace Farm** in Marion, where a converted “barndo” is set between pastures home to horses, Highland cows, alpacas and other farm animals just waiting to be petted.



5. Carolina Heritage Outfitters, St. George 6. Clevedale Historic Inn & Gardens, Spartanburg



CARRI BASS PHOTOGRAPHY



the Palmetto Porch podcast

Passion FOR Preservation

On The Palmetto Porch Podcast, host Devyn Whitmire sits down with locals who preserve South Carolina's history and pass on stories to the next generation of residents and visitors.



PRESS PLAY

Scan the QR code to hear the podcast's full interviews and to learn more about the places and faces that make the Palmetto State feel like home.

DR. KATHERINE "KATIE" SEEBER, ARCHAEOLOGIST Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, Hilton Head Island

Dr. Katherine "Katie" Seeber has always known she was meant to dig into the past—literally. Inspired by her scientist father, she pursued a life in archaeology.

Today, she preserves and interprets the legacy of Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States,

established in 1862. At **Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park**, where residents once elected their own leaders, built schools and churches, and established laws long before the Reconstruction Era, Seeber's work uncovers both the resilience of a pioneering community and the broader truth that, as she puts it, "We are shaped by all the people that came before us. It's important to understand where we came from to inform who we are and how we get to the next place."

GABE SHULER, MASTER NATURALIST Cypress Gardens, Moncks Corner

Gabe Shuler has been fascinated by snakes, reptiles and amphibians since childhood, so it's no surprise he grew up to become the resident naturalist at **Cypress Gardens**. Today, he shares his passion through educational programs, including a popular class on herpetology (the study of amphibians and reptiles) for kids. "Naturalists cover a wide variety of things: the

natural history of the area, local wildlife, local ecosystems, even the history of how the land has changed," he says.

A former rice plantation, Cypress Gardens is now a natural refuge with wildlife, walking trails, swamp boat tours and one of South Carolina's largest butterfly houses. Soak in the quiet magic of the blackwater swamp, famously featured in *The Notebook*. For Shuler, it's not just about observing nature—it's about recognizing how deeply we're connected to it.

GLENIS REDMOND, POET LAUREATE Greenville

Glenis Redmond believes poetry is everywhere—"swirling around us," as she puts it—we just have to take note. Amid a cancer diagnosis and the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, she and her grandson Julian set out to explore all of the state parks through South Carolina's Ultimate Outsider program. The journey deepened their bond, offered a much-needed sanctuary and inspired her poetry book *The Song of*

Everything: A Poet's Understanding of South Carolina's State Parks.

Together, they hiked, searched for birds and insects, and took in the quiet details of nature, finding beauty and meaning in every stop. **Paris Mountain State Park** in Greenville holds a special place in Redmond's heart, as both an artist and a grandparent. In one poem, she writes to her grandson: "Julian, please know our getaways are not leavings but arrivals. A chance to look into the still pond of ourselves."

LOWCOUNTRY ON THE MOVE IN BEAUFORT

Stretch your legs along the **Spanish Moss Trail**, a 10-mile paved path that winds through salt marshes, towering oaks and historic neighborhoods. This rail-trail gem is flat and ideal for walkers, cyclists and people with strollers and wheelchairs. Cap off your outing with a table at **Plums Restaurant**, a riverfront favorite serving Southern comfort food with a side of charm.

BEACHCOMBER'S BLISS ON EDISTO ISLAND

Trek across bleached driftwood- and shell-strewn sands on the **Botany Bay Beach Walk**, where the trail is more about tide than terrain. This unspoiled barrier island offers hauntingly beautiful "boneyard" beaches, birdwatching and quiet reflection. After your coastal stroll, grab a seat at **The SeaCOW Eatery**, a no-frills island treasure known for its fresh seafood and laid-back vibes.

MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE IN PICKENS COUNTY

Up for a heart-pounding climb? The **Table Rock Summit Trail** dishes out steep ascents and

rocky scrambles on a 7.2-mile round trip, but the Blue Ridge Mountain views from the top are pure payoff. Refuel with hearty Appalachian eats at the **Pumpkintown General Store**, where you'll find buttery biscuits, country favorites and friendly faces waiting to welcome you back to earth.

WOODS & BREWS NEAR THE CAPITAL

Crisscross wetlands and woodlands on Harbison State Forest's **Firebreak Trail**, a moderately difficult loop just minutes from the city. Afterward, head to **Craft and Draft** in Irmo, where a rotating lineup of local beers and creative pub fare makes for the perfect trail-to-table transition.

ROLLING & REFUELING IN TRAVELERS REST

Follow the **Swamp Rabbit Trail**, a 28-mile multiuse greenway linking Greenville to Travelers Rest. It's ideal for bikes, strollers and wheelchairs, and the people-watching isn't bad either. Once you've worked up an appetite, step into **Upcountry Provisions** for scratch-made sandwiches, locally sourced bites and an inviting back porch perfect for lingering.

HIKES & BITES

In South Carolina, adventure doesn't stop at the trailhead, and your reward for getting outside is more than just a view. From coastal walks to mountain climbs, pair your outdoor excursions with locally loved eateries for a day that feeds both body and soul.



Table Rock State Park, Pickens



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A
360-DEGREE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE
ATOP TABLE ROCK MOUNTAIN.

FROM OKRA TO ORATIONS

A LEGACY OF GULLAH TRADITIONS

Gullah Geechee heritage has deep roots in South Carolina's Lowcountry, shaped by the descendants of West and Central African people who lived and labored on South Carolina's Sea Islands and the region's coastal plains. Generations of relative isolation helped preserve distinct language, foodways, music and craftsmanship that continue to influence the area's identity today. Here are a few ways to experience Gullah culture during your visit.



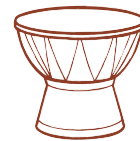
Hear the harmonic sounds of **The Plantation Singers** during **The Charleston Festival**. This a cappella group performs traditional spirituals that trace back to Gullah roots, filling churches and open-air venues with rhythm and resilience. Or reserve a seat at The Gullah Luncheon at **Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens** in Mount Pleasant. Between bites of Southern-style home cooking, storytellers share narratives that reveal the humor, hardship and heart of the Gullah experience.



Taste how Gullah food turns humble ingredients into bold, comforting dishes. Staples like crab rice, okra soup and stewed greens reflect West African culinary traditions adapted to the Lowcountry's seasonal ingredients. At **Workmen's Cafe** on James Island, crispy fried chicken, tender pork chops and sweet cornbread are among the must-try items. A few miles away in downtown Charleston, **Hannibal's Kitchen** draws a steady crowd for its shrimp and crab rice, seasoned just right and loaded with fresh blue crab.



Shop for one-of-a-kind keepsakes at the **Charleston City Market**, where Gullah artisans sell handcrafted goods daily. Be sure to seek out the sweetgrass basket makers. Their baskets—woven from locally harvested bulrush and palmetto leaves—are crafted using techniques that date back hundreds of years. Artist Mary Jackson first drew attention with her baskets at the market in 1980, and today, one of her pieces is part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.



Experience the annual festivals at cultural centers across the region. On Hilton Head Island, the month-long **Gullah Celebration** in February highlights visual arts, delicious food traditions and performances. **The Original Gullah Festival** in Beaufort features African drumming, storytelling, artisan workshops and historical tours across three days each May. Visit the **Bluffton Gullah Cultural Heritage Center**, where the Twin Bottle Tree uses symbolic glass bottles and vibrant colors to honor spiritual traditions and ward off evil energy.

If These Trees Could Talk

Recognized as the #1 Plantation in the Charleston Area by USA TODAY 10BEST
In a time of soul searching and reflection Boone Hall remains committed to telling the full story



You see it. You feel it. Spanish moss grows on giant live oaks, swaying gently in the coastal breeze.

And if you listen closely, you might even hear the whispers of over 300 years of history, beauty, and grace. The Avenue of Oaks at Boone Hall Plantation transports you back in time to an era gone, but never forgotten.

The diversity of what is presented at this iconic venue has propelled Boone Hall to the forefront as one of the most famous plantations in the world and “a must see on any trip to Charleston,” according to *NBC Daytime* television.

Boone Hall is no stranger to Hollywood either. It was a production location for the famous TV miniseries *North and South*, *The Notebook*, *American Idol*, and others.



*“Exploring The Gullah Culture”
True descendants of the Gullah people share this unique culture through one-of-a-kind live presentations that are educational, entertaining, and according to visitors, also very moving and spiritually uplifting.*

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

- Entrance down the famous Avenue Of Oaks
- Exploring The Gullah Culture Live Presentation
- Farm and Nature Wagon Tour
- NEW - Gin House Museum & Gift Shop
- Black History In America Exhibit
- Enslaved History Presentation
- House and Garden Tours
- NEW - Stable Tour

Boone Hall Plantation

1235 Long Point Rd., Mount Pleasant, SC
843.884.4371 | boonehallplantation.com

POSTCARDS *from the* PAST

A ROAD TRIP THROUGH SOUTH
CAROLINA'S NOSTALGIC SMALL TOWNS



Crank the windows down and take a ride back in time. From the moss-draped coastlines to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, South Carolina's small towns invite you to slow down and swap screen time for story time. Rediscover the joy of the roadside wander, and maybe even recall some sweet childhood memories at these nostalgic locales—where every stop feels like a postcard from the days of yesteryear.

COAST ALONG THE COAST

► PAWLEYS ISLAND

Start with one of the oldest summer resorts on the East Coast. Pawleys Island is delightfully unpretentious and unhurried, and the **Pawleys Island General Store** is the heart of its charm—a throwback to the days when flip-flops and a bag of Carolina Smacker Crackers

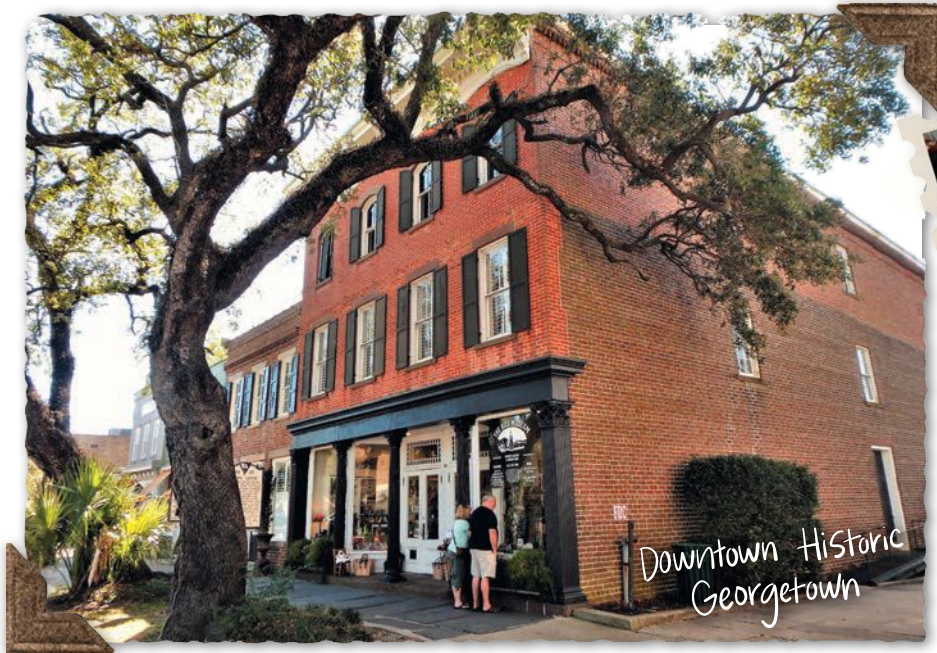
defined vacation. For upscale Southern cuisine, navigate to **Frank's Restaurant & Bar**, set in a former 1940s supermarket. Dine in the candle-lit bistro or beneath twinkling lights and live oaks out back.

► GEORGETOWN

Stroll the brick-lined streets of **Downtown Historic Georgetown**, where big chain stores are noticeably absent and history speaks through preserved buildings. Don't miss the **Kaminski House Museum**, filled with 18th-century furnishings and tales, or **The Rice Museum**, which honors the region's rice culture and cultivation.

► MOUNT PLEASANT

Grab a milkshake and grilled cheese at **Pitt Street Pharmacy's** traditional soda fountain, where generations have grown up and movies have been filmed. Then see what the "original



small town” felt like strolling through Mount Pleasant’s **Old Village** historic district, with mom-and-pop merchants and antique shops.

► SUMMERVILLE

Known as the birthplace of sweet tea, Summerville delivers plenty of sugary charm. Follow the **Sweet Tea Trail** before stopping into **Main Street Reads** for your next beach book or browsing retro fabrics and quilting keepsakes at **People, Places & Quilts**. Along the way, quench your thirst at the soda fountain at **Guerin’s Pharmacy** (the oldest

in South Carolina), and fill up for the next leg at the **Icehouse** with buttermilk fried chicken and a warm slice of bourbon pecan pie.

► WALTERBORO

Immerse yourself in local heritage at **The Colleton Museum & Farmers Market**, then stroll to the **South Carolina Artisans Center**, an enchanting Victorian cottage filled with handcrafted treasures from over 300 local artists.

► BLUFFTON

Perched on a bluff overlooking May River, **Old Town Bluffton** is all colonial shutters

and porch swings among historic farmhouses. Admire local art at **The Society of Bluffton Artists** or find children’s storytime treasures at **The Storybook Shoppe**. Swing through **Bluffton General Store** for gourmet goodies, classic treats and artisan-made gifts before venturing inland.

MEMORIES THROUGH THE MIDLANDS

► SALTERS

Cooper’s Country Store is a living time capsule from a way of life that’s long

faded. Find everything from lumber and fuel to boiled peanuts to country-style ham. Be sure to try its authentic South Carolina barbecue, cooked the old-school way over wood embers, and snap a selfie in front of its storied gas pumps before hitting the road.

► MANNING

Admire the decorative cornices and red-brick architecture of the **Manning Commercial Historic District**, which features a collection of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then dig in at **Gullah Gullah Fish**, where the shrimp and flounder are fried golden and the stories are rich with cultural heritage.

► SUMTER

Catch the action at **Sumter Speedway**, a dirt-track racing venue that’s been thrilling locals since 1957. Pick

up any forgotten essentials or cool off with an ice cream float at **Cut Rate Pharmacy & Diner**, where the interior is retro and the atmosphere is pure Americana.

► FLORENCE

Treasure hunters will lose track of time in **Palmetto Peddlers** antiques mall, an expansive space with quirky finds, including period furniture and vintage records. Then fill your cooler at **Pee Dee State Farmers Market**, situated on sprawling farmland right off the highway and overflowing with fresh produce, plants and pies.

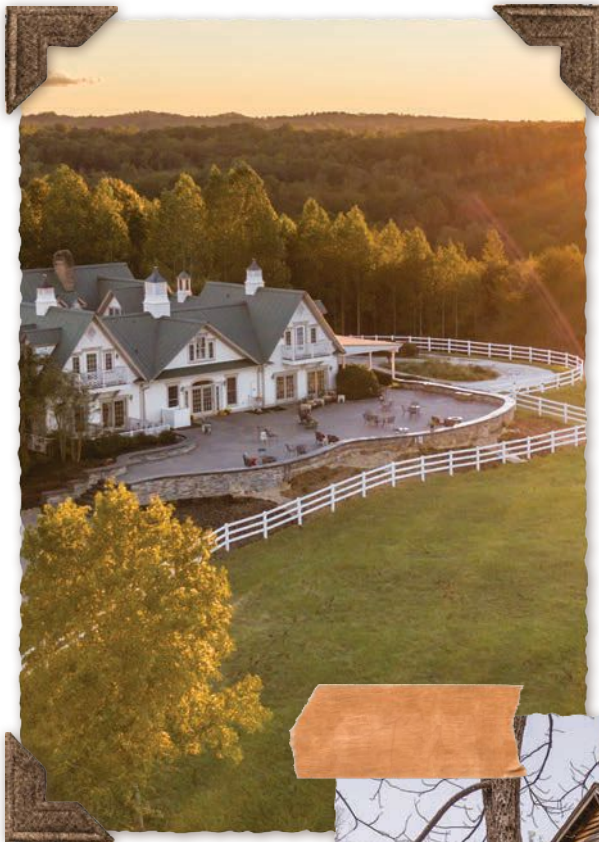
► SELLERS

The scent of slow-cooked pork leads you to **Shuler’s BBQ**, where down-home barbecue is served buffet-style and sweet tea is poured with pride in a rustic wood-cabin setting. Browse the on-site general store to stock up on nostalgic sweets and quirky souvenirs like Peach Pie Moonshine Jelly.

► LATTA

Cap off your trip with a stay at the grand Greek Revival-style **Abingdon Manor Inn & Restaurant**, a AAA Four Diamond inn set amid lush, manicured grounds.





The Red Horse Inn



Hagood Mill Historic Site

TIME TRAVEL FROM MIDLANDS TO MOUNTAINS

This road trip begins in the Midlands and winds into the rolling terrain of the Upstate—trading farmlands for foothills and highways for highlands.

▶ AIKEN

Browse rare, whimsical finds at **A Fox's Tale**, where antiques and farmhouse decor meet well-loved books from decades past. Then take a tour through the **Aiken County Historical Museum** with a docent guiding you through the former Winter Colony mansion and

grounds, including an 1890s schoolhouse and buttery.

▶ MONETTA

Stay overnight for a chance to experience a quintessential 1950s date night at the **Monetta Drive-In Theatre**, affectionately dubbed "The Big Mo," where double features light up the night sky. Before getting back on the road, make a morning pit stop at **Watsonia Organics** farm to stock up on organic plums, peaches and muscadine grapes for farm-fresh snacks.

▶ ABBEVILLE

Old-world charm gets a standing ovation



at **The Belmont Inn**, initially a turn-of-the-century railroad hotel for the elite en route to New York or Miami. Today, you can glimpse into a bygone era and enjoy the now-modern amenities of this restored landmark. During your stay, secure tickets to the storied **Abbeville Opera House** for a musical or concert.

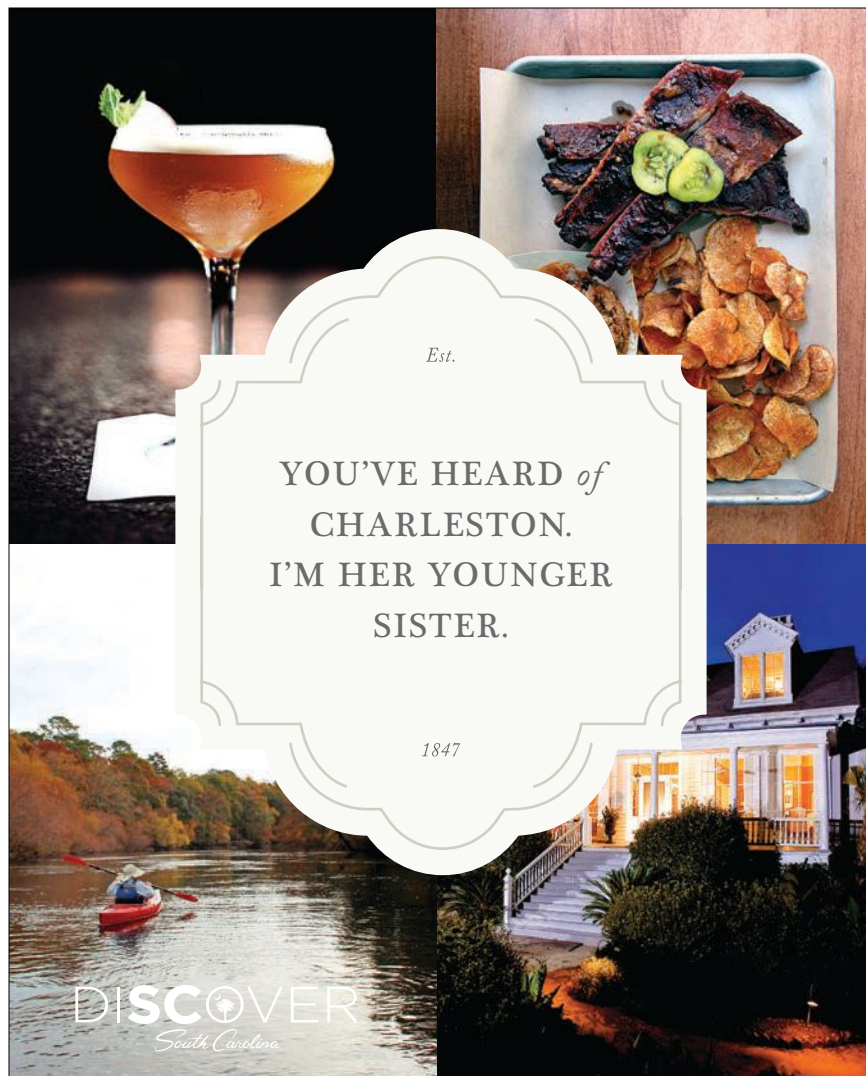
▶ PICKENS

History lives at **Hagood Mill Historic Site**, where the water-powered gristmill, blacksmithing and hearth cooking demos, and Appalachian folk music create an immersive step back in time. Don't drive off without exploring the mysteries etched in stone at **Hagood Creek Petroglyph Site**,

one of the most significant collections of Native American rock carvings in the state.

▶ LANDRUM

Settle in at **The Red Horse Inn**, touting glorious views of the misty Blue Ridge Mountains. In the morning, pull over at **Campbell's Covered Bridge**, the only one of its kind still standing in the state, before heading into downtown Landrum for treasure hunting at **The Shops at Landrum Antique Mall**. Reminisce about your road trip over a round of cocktails and upscale American cuisine in the cozy, wood-paneled pub **The Hare & Hound**.



Est.

YOU'VE HEARD *of*
CHARLESTON.
I'M HER YOUNGER
SISTER.

1847

DISCOVER
South Carolina

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING

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scrumptious, and Rainbow Row is real.
Come see it all from historic Summerville—
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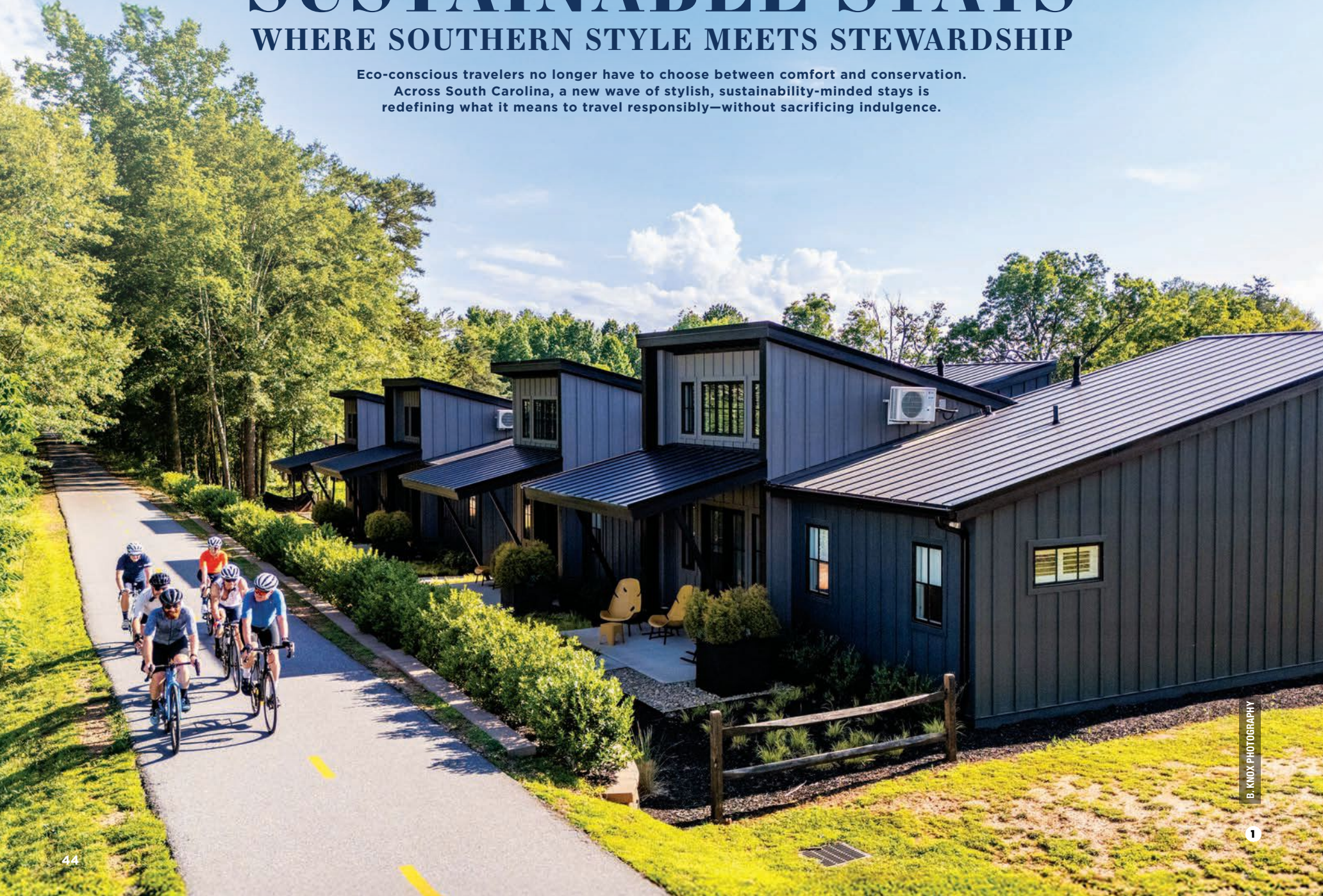
VISITWALTERBOROSC.ORG

SUSTAINABLE STAYS

WHERE SOUTHERN STYLE MEETS STEWARDSHIP

Eco-conscious travelers no longer have to choose between comfort and conservation.

Across South Carolina, a new wave of stylish, sustainability-minded stays is redefining what it means to travel responsibly—without sacrificing indulgence.



The Station by Compo Hotels in Travelers Rest is a masterclass in modern sustainability. Built with cutting-edge materials and methods, this boutique retreat treads lightly on the land while celebrating local craftsmanship through custom furnishings and amenities. Native landscaping reflects the spirit of place, inviting guests to relax and reconnect in a setting that's as thoughtful as it is beautiful.

Set within four meticulously reimagined heritage buildings, **The Restoration** in Charleston proves that luxury and sustainability can coexist beautifully. In-room glass water bottles replace plastic, while compostable straws and plastic-free dining showcase the hotel's commitment to low-impact living. The on-site restaurant celebrates Lowcountry flavors with daily menus crafted from seasonal coastal catches and local farm harvests, offering a delicious taste of Charleston's culinary conscience.

Also in Charleston, **The Charleston Place** is leading the way in urban sustainability. Smart HVAC systems, high-efficiency windows and a saltwater pool reduce the property's footprint, while boxed water and a dramatic



90% reduction in single-use plastics speak to its eco-evolution. Behind the scenes, eco-friendly detergents and energy-efficient laundry systems complement comprehensive recycling across all departments. On the plate, seasonal menus spotlight local growers and makers.

Playful and polished, **Hotel Trundle** brings eco-luxury to downtown Columbia. Housed within three historic buildings, this award-winning boutique hotel champions local artisans with regionally sourced decor and curated Palmetto State goods. Electric vehicle charging, in-room recycling and sustainable touches throughout make it easy for guests to feel good about their stay.

At **Wild Dunes Resort** in Isle of Palms, sustainability takes center stage with ocean-

friendly practices that go beyond the basics. The resort's "strawless for sea life" initiative, reusable cup program and beach sweep events invite guests to be part of the preservation. Coastal Provisions, its signature restaurant, features responsibly sourced seafood through the South Carolina Aquarium's Good Catch program. And atop the complex's Sweetgrass Inn, six buzzing beehives produce golden honey that sweetens everything from desserts to craft cocktails.

Designed to work with the landscape, **The Dunlin** on Johns Island harnesses breezes from the marsh to cool its elegant spaces. Smart in-room sensors reduce energy use, while porch-ready picnic sets and glassware encourage low-waste adventures. It's a seamless blend of refined comfort and thoughtful design.



1. The Station by Compo Hotels, Travelers Rest 2. Hotel Trundle, Columbia 3. The Dunlin, Johns Island

COURTESY OF THE DUNLIN, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION



The Artistry of Indigo

A STORY WOVEN IN BLUE

Long before it became South Carolina's official color, indigo was a living thread, rooted in Lowcountry soil and shipped across oceans as a symbol of beauty and economic power. From the late 1740s to the 1790s, this unassuming plant produced a deep-blue dye that helped shape the identity and prosperity of the young colony. Indigo became South Carolina's second most valuable export after rice and played a key role in its economy. The dye was even used to color the uniforms worn by the Continental Army during the

Revolutionary War, a striking contrast to the British "redcoats" they fought against. But indigo's legacy isn't just economic. It's personal, cultural and complex.

Countless enslaved people worked the indigo fields and production vats, coaxing blue from green through an arduous, pungent process. Along what is now the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, indigo remains a vivid symbol of creativity and resilience, its memory still alive in the hands of local artists, farmers and storytellers who continue to honor the past through the power of pigment.

On Edisto Island, **Riverside Blues** grows indigo not just as a crop,

but as an heirloom of heritage. Here, the plant is grown, transformed into naturally dyed home goods and packets of indigo seeds for sale, carrying stories yet to be planted.

In Lake City, amid the lush beauty of **Moore Farms Botanical Garden**, fiber artist Kelly Fort leads small workshops where participants learn to make and use indigo dye paste, made from Fort's own harvest from her Wadmalaw Island farm. Fabric is plunged into vats of blue, guided by her knowledge and the garden's mission to connect horticulture, history and the human spirit.

Across the water on Daufuskie Island, **Daufuskie Blues** thrives

1. Hopsewee Plantation, Georgetown

in a place where dolphins surface and wild indigo still grows among the oaks. In the historic **Maryfield**

School, artists Leanne McJunkin Coulter and Rhonda Davis create hand-dyed textiles that reflect the rhythms of the island and the stories it holds—stories of a culture that has endured through tide and time.

In Charleston, two historic plantations offer portals into indigo's layered past. At **Middleton Place**, guests wander through America's oldest landscaped gardens and step into the stable yards for a drop-in-style program to learn about indigo and the people who once labored in the fields and dye vats.

Just down Ashley River Road, **Magnolia Plantation & Gardens** reimagines the crop with events like the inspiring **Indigo in Bloom**, featuring nature-inspired art installations.

Farther north in Georgetown, **Hopsewee Plantation**, once a major producer of indigo,

invites visitors to dye cloth beneath moss-laced trees. Workshops here reconnect the modern hand to the ancient craft, honoring a legacy that shaped both fabric and future.

Indigo is more than a color. In its hue lies a story of land and labor, of artistry and ancestry—a story still unfolding, staining fingers and stirring hearts across the Lowcountry.



2. Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, Charleston 3. Middleton Place, Charleston

LITTLE STORES *with so much more*



Candlefish, Charleston

Across South Carolina, specialty stores are blending curated goods with creative moments, inviting you to sip, swirl, smell, snip and style as you shop. These interactive boutiques turn a simple stop into a standout memory.

Start in Charleston at **Candlefish**, where flickering candlelight meets hands-on fun. This scent-lover's haven invites you to pour your own candles in an Instagram-worthy library of over 100 fragrances. You'll walk away with a handmade keepsake and a new favorite scent.

Then, stroll down King Street to nearby **Estelle Colored Glass**, which turns shopping into an artful affair. Each jewel-toned, hand-blown piece is a celebration of color and craftsmanship. As you browse the luminous display, enjoy a complimentary mocktail served in one of Estelle's signature glasses—a perfectly polished way to experience the beauty in use.

In Bluffton, **Fiddle + Shine House Market** invites you to roll up your sleeves. This boho boutique is part jungle, part jewelry box, with macramé workshops, plant-care classes and

local goods tucked into every nook. You'll leave with a new skill and something green to show for it.

Head inland to **The Mercantile** in Rock Hill, where a flower and plant bar, cozy cafe and kitchenware corner converge under one roof. This modern general store hosts cooking demos and floral arranging classes that feel like a mini escape. Shop small, sip slow and maybe even learn how to whip up a perfect vinaigrette.

Over in Newberry, **Tiny Paris** lives up to its name: a charming French-inspired wine bar where candles, caftans and cheese plates coexist. It's a spot where style meets savignon, perfect for lingering with a glass and something lovely in your hands.

And in Greenville, **Augusta Twenty** exudes effortless chic. This fashion-forward boutique also houses a stylish coffee shop and curated market, making it ideal for mornings that start with espresso and end with a wardrobe refresh.

Small in size, rich in personality—these South Carolina shops will take you beyond “just browsing.”

MEET NEWBERRY SMALL TOWN. BIG EXPERIENCE.

DISCOVER
South Carolina

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SIP-worthy SPEAKEASIES

Step through unmarked doors, behind bookshelves or down quiet staircases, and you'll find South Carolina's sultriest secret: a thriving speakeasy scene that trades loud crowds for low lighting, vintage vibes and cocktails worth whispering about.

Elsie's at Kounter—tucked behind the unassuming charcuterie shop at South Carolina Chef Ambassador Rob Masone's Southern-style eatery in Rock Hill—is a password-required hideaway where shell-pink velvet seats and marble accents set the scene. Sip impeccable cocktails crafted with house-made syrups and fresh ingredients, then linger over caviar service or a curated board of specialty meats and cheeses.

Named after the burn lines left by Sherman's March on Columbia during the Civil War, **The Burnline** is a magnetic, moody speakeasy hidden in the midst of Main Street, behind the fine-dining hot spot, Smoked. Much like its name, its

inventive cocktails will spark your curiosity, with surprising ingredients such as bacon-washed bourbon and tea-infused coconut liqueur.

Greenville boasts two standout spots. **Vault & Vator**, located in a clandestine basement space with a historical vault, delivers creative concoctions that change with the seasons. Just a few blocks away, **Swordfish Cocktail Club** may not be a secret, but its sultry lighting, old-world vibe and classic cocktail list feel like time travel.

Along the May River over in Bluffton, Montage Palmetto Bluff's **Hush on the Bluff** touts a secret entrance below the River House restaurant. This cozy, candlelit hideaway blends Lowcountry charm with sleek sophistication and creative drinks like a truffle-infused Old Fashioned and smoked lavender Gin Fizz.

Charleston's cocktail scene doesn't shy away from stealth either.

Scotty Doesn't Know, tucked behind a door within the pastel-hued Charleston Custard and Candy, delivers a luxe experience with top-tier cocktails (and mocktails) served in an ornate lounge. And nestled within Last Saint, find your way to the intimate **Annex** bar for a menu-less experience that promises personalized mixology.



1. The Burnline, Columbia

An aerial, top-down view of several runners participating in a night race. The runners are silhouetted against a dark background, and large, vibrant clouds of blue, purple, and pink powder or paint are being kicked up around them, creating a dynamic and festive atmosphere. The runners are in various stages of their stride, with some arms and legs extended.

Fun RUNS & *Wacky* RACES

South Carolina's race calendar isn't just about the finish line—it's about fun, flair and community spirit. From dogs in costume to glow-in-the-dark 5Ks, these events turn fitness into full-on entertainment while raising money for local causes.

In April, head to **Huntington Beach State Park** in Murrells Inlet for the **Gator Gauntlet 5K**, a scenic beachside run (or walk) where silly costumes are highly encouraged. It's perfect for kids, beginners and four-legged companions.

Meanwhile, Columbia gets galactic with May's **May the Fourth Be With You 5K**, where Star Wars fans sprint (or stroll) in their finest Jedi robes, Wookiee fur or stormtrooper gear. Awards are given for creativity and character commitment, followed by a themed concert from the South Carolina Philharmonic.

Come Halloween time, you'll find themed races galore. Dress up for **Hobblin Goblin 5K** at Little Pee Dee State Park in Dillon, where runners, walkers and even dogs hit a mostly paved course in costume for prizes at this timed yet go-at-your-own-pace race. In Conway—the "City of Halloween"—the **Halloween Hustle** offers a 10K, 5K and 1-mile run (or all three), with finishers earning a glow-in-the-dark medal. Wear your best costumes for Aiken's **Trailblazer Halloween Half Marathon & Races** at Stable View, where you can run the Headless Horseman Half, a Thriller 10K or the Frightening 5K with optional steeplechase jumps.

Also in the fall, Charleston's **Glow Run** lights up the night with neon vibes and powder-filled fun. Runners and walkers begin in plain white or black tees and finish glowing under black lights and dancing to live DJs at an electrified after-party.

SOUTHERN STARS



DAVID MOIR/BRAVO

1



SOUTH CAROLINA CHEFS LIGHTING UP YOUR SCREEN

South Carolina's Chef Ambassadors have long been winning hearts at home, and now they're also making waves on national television. From fierce Food Network showdowns to PBS spotlights, these standout chefs are putting Palmetto State flavors on center stage. Luckily, you don't need a backstage pass to taste what they're cooking—just a reservation.



SHUAI WANG

When Shuai Wang stepped into Bravo's *Top Chef* kitchen, he brought with him the soul of Charleston and the spice of something entirely new. At **Jackrabbit Filly** and **King BBQ** in North Charleston, Wang fuses Southern ingredients with Chinese-American flavors in ways that are inventive, bold and unforgettable. Dine in, and you'll understand why the Holy City's food scene is buzzing about him.



ORCHID PAULMEIER

A fan favorite from *Food Network Star*, Orchid Paulmeier is the heart and heat behind **One Hot Mama's BBQ** on Hilton Head Island. A South Carolina Chef Ambassador, Paulmeier serves up slow-smoked ribs, golden cornbread and collard greens with a side of charisma. Her restaurant is proudly featured on the South Carolina BBQ Trail and lauded by locals and visitors alike.



MICHAEL SIBERT

From *Guy's Grocery Games* to *Chopped*, Michael Sibert has proven he can turn mystery basket madness into mouthwatering success. His clever creations—like pancake tacos and risotto with teres major (an affordable cut of steak)—earned him top honors. Taste his elevated comfort food at **White Wine & Butter** at the Greer Golf Country Club in Greer.

1. Shuai Wang, Bravo's *Top Chef*



BRANDON CARTER

Brandon Carter, the force behind **FARM Bluffton**, stepped up to *Beat Bobby Flay* with the same ethos he brings to the kitchen: respect the land, honor the ingredients and cook from the soul. With co-founder and farmer Ryan Williamson, Carter's restaurants—including **Common Thread** and **Strangebird Food Truck**—embody the potential of hyper-local cuisine.



SARAH MCCLURE

Two-time *Guy's Grocery Games* contender Sarah McClure brings serious chops to her family-run restaurant, **Southside Smokehouse** in Landrum. With a menu full of smoked meats, fresh seafood and elevated Southern classics, she's proof that small-town chefs can win on big-time stages and feed their communities in the process.



KEVIN MITCHELL

A classically trained chef and cultural historian, Kevin Mitchell has become a media ambassador for South Carolina's culinary legacy. From *TODAY* to PBS's *A Taste of History* and Food Network's *Delicious Miss Brown*, Mitchell is a culinary educator, scholar and champion of local heritage ingredients (learn more on page 56) and time-honored "slow food" values.



JAMIE DASKALIS

Chef Jamie Daskalis of **Johnny D's Waffles** and **The Tasting Room on 9th** shines bright on shows like *Chef Swap* and *Steppin' Out with Joseph Rosendo*. A two-time "Best Chef" winner and autism awareness advocate, Daskalis hosts sensory-friendly events alongside creating crave-worthy waffles and heartfelt Southern hospitality.



Scan the **QR code** to take a tour through some of the Palmetto State's top restaurants and kitchens as you hear from the people who create mouthwatering dishes in them: the South Carolina Chef Ambassadors.



Fields OF Flavor

FARM-TO-TABLE DINING IN THE PALMETTO STATE



SARAH E PHOTOGRAPHY

From mountain farms to coastal fisheries, a new generation of chefs is honoring the state's agricultural legacy by forging close-knit partnerships with local growers, fishermen and artisans, then turning those connections into unforgettable meals.

Often working as a private chef-for-hire, Chef Amanda Moon Callahan and her team bring the phrase “from farm to fork” to life through her seasonal Callywood Farms dinners: multi-course celebrations built entirely around what's growing nearby. Held at **Sisters Restaurant** in Salem, these ticketed events blur the line between fine dining and community gathering. Expect vegetables picked that morning, herbs clipped just before service and dishes that tell the story of the land itself, served on long communal tables beneath the glow of Southern hospitality.

At **Topsoil Kitchen & Market** in Travelers Rest, Chef Adam Cooke turns humble vegetables into works of art. A James Beard semifinalist, Cooke sources from a constellation of local farms (including his own 16-acre plot) to craft dishes that honor the rhythms of the growing season. His plant-based



JACK ROBERT PHOTOGRAPHY

supper club shines a spotlight on a single farm each time, with each course echoing the terroir of Upstate soil. It's fine dining grounded in gratitude—and a lot of greens.

Lowcountry flavors get a fresh twist at **Nectar Farm Kitchen**, where Chef Chris Carge fuses comfort and conscience. With locations in Hilton Head Island and Old Town Bluffton, Carge draws from nearby farms and fisheries to build creative, seasonal

menus that celebrate coastal ingredients while supporting sustainable practices. Each bite feels both nourishing and indulgent.

Charleston's Chef Marc Collins masterfully blends French finesse with South Carolina's seasonal bounty. At **Circa 1886**, dishes like brown butter soufflé are both refined and reverent, letting fresh ingredients—often from Storey Farms on Johns Island—shine through. It's proof that farm-to-

table fare can be rooted and worldly all at once.

At Conway's **Crooked Oak Tavern**, every dish tells a regional story. From Lila Lee Shrimpin's coastal catch to Carolina Shores Apiaries' golden honey and Braveheart Farms' prime rib eye, the menu is an ode to South Carolina's agricultural range. Whether you're sipping a honey-laced cocktail or digging into a hearty steak, you're tasting the best of what local producers have to offer.



CIRCA 1886 RESTAURANT



FOR THE LOVE OF HEIRLOOMS

High Wire Distilling, Charleston

From the sun-warmed soil of South Carolina, a quiet revival is taking place—one rooted in memory, flavor and the grit of generations of farmers. Heirloom produce, once nearly lost to industrial farming, is finding its way back to farmers markets and Southern kitchens, each variety holding hidden stories—of survival, adaptation and identity—that stretch back centuries.



“Cooking for me, as a chef, includes storytelling, trade connected to migration and, of course, pride. You can look at it as a living archive. It’s where land, labor, legacy and love all intersect or come together in one pan.”

— Kevin Mitchell

“The growing of ingredients encompasses climate, geography, cultural influence and economics and power,” says South Carolina Chef Ambassador Kevin Mitchell, who coauthored the book *Taste the State: South Carolina’s Signature Foods, Recipes, and Their Stories*. To Mitchell, these ingredients are more than culinary choices; they’re historical records.

Take the **Bradford watermelon**, cultivated around 1840 by Nathaniel Bradford. The dark-green melon was once the gold standard of Southern sweetness before falling out of favor in the

20th century due to its thin rind, which made it difficult to transport long distances (though excellent for pickling). For years, it was thought extinct—until Bradford’s descendant, farmer and horticulturist Nat Bradford, resurrected the family heirloom on his Sumter farm. Today, it’s prized by chefs and heritage seed savers alike, a symbol of flavor enjoyed best at its moment of peak ripeness.

Then there’s **Jimmy Red corn**, a garnet-hued variety of Native American corn that eventually made its way to South Carolina and became the darling of moonshiners for its high sugar content. Nearly extinct in the early 2000s, it was revived thanks to a pair of ears rescued by James

Islander Ted Chewning, who selected the best seeds and grew them in a secluded area on his farm to avoid cross-contamination. Today, the corn’s rich oils and nutty flavor underpin everything from Marsh Hen Mill’s stone-ground grits to High Wire Distilling’s bourbon whiskey.

Even the humble tomato tells quite a tale. With their imperfect shapes and vivid hues—from deep crimson to dusky rose—heirloom varieties like Cherokee Purple, Brandywine and Goose Creek are deeply rooted in South Carolina. The **Goose Creek tomato** carries a poignant past: its seeds have been passed down through generations since the 1800s, when farmer Jimmy Watson’s great-great-grandmother—a young Caribbean woman enslaved and transported to South Carolina—secretly carried them aboard a ship that docked near Goose Creek. Today, these tomatoes are celebrated in quintessential Southern dishes like tomato pie and tomato sandwiches.

In the Gullah Geechee communities of the Sea Islands, heirloom crops aren’t just ingredients—they’re a link to cultural heritage. “That’s the thing with heirlooms; it’s not just the seeds.



It’s the stories and the places that they came from,” says Ira Wallace, author of *Grow Great Vegetables in South Carolina*. “And if you don’t save that story, a lot of that is lost.” **Sea Island red peas**, a heritage variety of cowpeas, are deeply tied to African diasporic foodways that have endured for generations. Small, maroon and rich with a creamy, earthy flavor, they’re essential to Lowcountry dishes like Hoppin’ John.

Sea Island blue corn reflects the agricultural traditions of Indigenous tribes like the Chicora, who once cultivated these lands and likely used the corn in ceremonial practices.

Carolina Gold rice, once nearly lost after the Civil War, has returned as the signature grain of the Southern culinary revival—its subtle, buttery texture a reminder of the region’s historic role in global agriculture. Now, local producers like Anson Mills and Marsh Hen Mill are keeping these heirloom varieties—and the stories behind them—vibrantly alive.

SLICE OF THE SOUTH

The tomato sandwich is more than lunch; it’s a love letter to Southern summers, backyard gardens and slowing down to savor what the season brings. It’s simple yet satisfying: Thick, juicy slices of late-summer tomato, a generous swipe of tangy

Duke’s mayonnaise and a sprinkle of salt and pepper, all nestled between two slices of soft, white bread. While variations exist—some insist on flake salt, others sneak in a dash of hot sauce—most agree: don’t overthink it.



MSPHOTOGRAPHIC, GETTY IMAGES

Cutout images from Getty Images: Red Peas (Xvision), Tomatoes (ZenShui/Laurence Mouton), Gold Rice (Dan Totilca)

THE ORIGINAL *Influencers*

• SINCE 1968 •

FIND FRIENDLY FACES AND LOCAL KNOW-HOW
AT SOUTH CAROLINA WELCOME CENTERS



It all began with a road trip. In 1965, South Carolina officials hit the highway for inspiration on how to best serve travelers, and they came back inspired. Their fact-finding tour sparked the idea for South Carolina's very own welcome center program. Backed by Governor Robert E. McNair and the General Assembly, the first center opened in 1968 in Little River, welcoming guests crossing from the North Carolina border.

Today, nine South Carolina Welcome Centers greet millions of visitors with more than directions and restrooms—they offer a warm hello, expert travel advice and an array of comfort amenities. Staff undergo intensive training and can even earn national certification, ensuring every stop is guided by genuine experience and Palmetto State pride.

Want to learn all about what to see and do in South Carolina? Stop by a Welcome Center to talk to a certified professional who can assist you with accommodation and attraction reservations, trip recommendations and insider tips on how to make the most of your vacation.

9 CENTERS IN CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Eight Welcome Centers are located at key entry points along the state's border, plus the Welcome Center near the center of the state in Orangeburg County along I-95 Southbound. Find your nearest location and plan a stop during your road trip.

FREE AMENITIES

These centers have comfort amenities similar to a rest stop, with restrooms and vending facilities, but they also come fully equipped with so much more: picnic areas, free Wi-Fi, coupons and deals for hotels and attractions, travel guides, brochures and, best of all, highly trained travel counselors to assist with trip planning. Some centers also include kiosks featuring Google Maps so visitors can print directions, while wall-mounted screens allow for self-exploration on DiscoverSouthCarolina.com/welcome-centers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit during special events throughout the year, such as National Travel and Tourism Week held May 3-9, 2026. In the past, this annual event has included complimentary refreshments, coloring books and crayons, putting greens, beanbag tosses, shag and square dancing, and giveaways for attractions and weekend getaways.

1. Hardeeville Welcome Center, Hardeeville



FRONT PORCH PROGRAM

The South Carolina Welcome Centers have partnered with local visitor centers across the state with the Front Porch Program. The participating centers undergo a certification process to ensure the information and service South Carolina travelers receive meet our standards. Stop by one of the certified Front Porch Program visitor centers today to get local insight on undiscovered attractions. Find your nearest certified visitor center, starting on page 61.

MEET THE EXPERTS:



DAWN SMITH

For Dawn Smith, every day is a chance to spark someone's next great adventure. As Manager of the South Carolina Welcome Center in Fair Play, she delights in sharing her love of the Palmetto State: "I get to paint rainbows for folks every day to go find," she says.

While guests often ask about beaches, food and local attractions—sometimes just to hear her Southern accent—Smith is quick to turn the tables, asking questions to tailor personalized travel recommendations.

Many visitors are surprised to learn the Welcome Centers can help with reservations and often score special rates.

Her favorite spots? "I personally love the Lowcountry with the marshes, low-hanging live oaks and pristine beaches, but I also love my home region in the Upcountry with the mountains, wild water and beautiful waterfalls." One hidden gem she hopes more travelers discover is the **Chattooga River**—a scenic escape for porch-loungers and adrenaline enthusiasts alike.



CARDACIA JAMISON

For Cardacia Jamison, a Certified Travel Counselor at the South Carolina Welcome Center in Santee, the joy of her role lies in meaningful cultural exchange. "My most rewarding aspect is meeting people from around the world. I love to see their enthusiasm as they visit our state for the first time," she says. Guests often arrive curious about Lake Marion—sometimes mistaking it for the ocean—or ask about state symbols, local landmarks and directions to popular Southern cities.

Many travelers are surprised to learn that South Carolina Welcome Centers provide complimentary

hotel booking assistance, attraction recommendations and promotional opportunities for tourism businesses—all free of charge.

When asked about favorite South Carolina destinations, Jamison points to **Charleston** and **Hilton Head Island**, both beloved for their charm, beaches and vibrant cultural experiences. But her favorite hidden gem? The **Santee National Wildlife Refuge (Bluff Unit)** in Summerton, home to ancient Native American mounds and the historic site of Fort Watson—just a mile off I-95 and rich with stories waiting to be discovered.

NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA



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has complete hours of operation.

- 1 I-26 East at SC/NC line | 864-457-2228
- 2 I-85 South at SC/NC line | 864-839-6742
- 3 I-77 South at SC/NC line | 803-548-2880
- 4 I-85 North at SC/GA line | 864-972-3731
- 5 I-95 South at SC/NC line | 843-774-4711
- 6 I-20 East at SC/GA line | 803-279-6756
- 7 I-95 South at Santee | 803-854-2442
- 8 Hwy. 17 South at Little River | 843-249-1111
- 9 I-95 North at SC/GA line | 843-784-3275

AMTRAK STATIONS

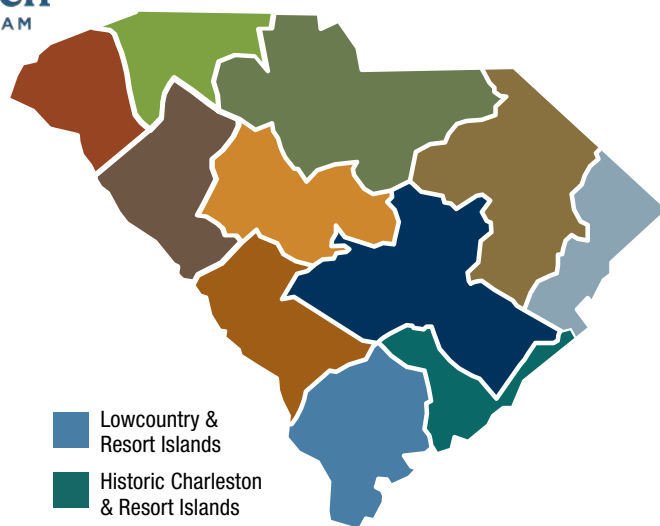
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Clemson (CSN) 1105 Tiger Blvd. | 6 Florence (FLO) 805 E. Day St. |
| 2 Greenville (GRV) 1120 W. Washington St. | 7 Kingstree (KTR) 101 E. Main St. |
| 3 Spartanburg (SPB) 290 Magnolia St. | 8 Denmark (DNK) 200 W. Baruch St. |
| 4 Camden (CAM) 1060 W. Dekalb St. | 9 Charleston (CHS) 4565 Gaynor Ave. |
| 5 Columbia (CLB) 850 Pulaski St. | 10 Yemassee (YEM) 15 Wall St. |



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD A
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STATE HIGHWAY MAP



- The Upcountry
- Lake Hartwell Country
- Thoroughbred Country
- Santee Cooper Country
- Pee Dee Region
- Olde English District
- Old 96 District
- Myrtle Beach Area & The Grand Strand



THE UPCOUNTRY & LAKE HARTWELL COUNTRY

Turn to page 65 for more information on this region.

Upcountry South Carolina
500 E. North St., Greenville
864-233-2690
upcountrysc.com

Lake Hartwell Country
120 History Lane, Pendleton
864-646-3782
lakehartwellcountry.com

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
129 N. Main St., Anderson
864-226-3454
andersonscchamber.com

*** Anderson Convention & Visitors Bureau - Visit Anderson**
110 Federal St., Anderson
864-716-3660
visitanderson.com

Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
225 S. Limestone St., Gaffney
864-489-5721
cherokeechamber.org

Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
1105 Tiger Blvd., Clemson
864-654-1200
visitchclemson.com

Clemson University Visitors Center
109 Daniel Dr., Clemson
864-656-4789
clemson.edu/visitors/index.html

*** Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce**
102 Depot St., Fountain Inn
864-862-2586
fountaininnchamber.org

*** Gaffney Visitors Center**
210 W. Frederick St., Gaffney
864-487-6244
getintogaffney.com

Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce
2001 E. Main St., Easley
864-859-2693
easleychamber.org

Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce
24 Cleveland St., Greenville
864-242-1050
greenvillechamber.org

*** Greater Mauldin Chamber of Commerce**
101 E. Butler Rd., Mauldin
864-297-1323
mauldinchamber.org

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce
2 Leas Courtyard Dr., Seneca
864-882-2097
oconeechambersc.com

*** Pickens Visitor Center**
222 W. Main St., Pickens
864-878-3258
explorepickens.com

Greenville - Spartanburg Airport Customer Service Desk
2000 GSP Dr., Greer
864-877-7426
gspairport.com

*** Greenville Downtown Visitors Center**
206 S. Main St., Greenville
864-233-0461
visitgreenvillesc.com

Inman Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 227, Inman
864-472-3654
inmanchamber.com

*** Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce**
105 Curtis St., Ste. A, Simpsonville
864-963-3781
simpsonvillechamber.com

Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
105 N. Pine St., Spartanburg
864-594-5000
visitspartanburg.com

*** Town of Pendleton**
310 Greenville St., Pendleton
864-646-9409
townofpendleton.org

*** Visit Oconee SC**
105 W. South Broad St., Walhalla
800-910-4371
visitoconeesc.com

*** Visit Travelers Rest**
125 Trailblazer Dr., Travelers Rest
864-901-1715
visittravelersrest.com

THOROUGHbred COUNTRY

Turn to page 74 for more information on this region.

Thoroughbred Country
2748 Wagener Rd., Aiken
803-649-7981
tbredcountry.org

*** Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum**
406 Park Ave. S.E., Aiken
803-293-7846
visitaikensc.com

*** Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta**
100 Georgia Ave., North Augusta
803-441-4380
artsandheritagecenter.com

Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce
604 Airport Rd., Bamberg
803-245-4427
bambergcountychamber.org

*** North Augusta Chamber of Commerce**
406 West Ave., North Augusta
803-279-2323
northaugustachamber.org

Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber
218 Main St., Barnwell
803-259-7446
southernpalmettoregionalchamber.org

SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY

Turn to page 77 for more information on this region.

*** Santee Cooper Country**
9302 Old Number Six Hwy., Santee
803-854-2131
santeecoopercountry.org

Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau
1004 Old US Hwy. 52, Moncks Corner
843-761-8238
berkeleysc.org

Berkeley County Tourism Department
1003 Hwy. 52, Moncks Corner
843-719-4995
visitberkeleysc.com

Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce
19 N. Brooks St., Manning
803-435-4405
clarendoncounty.com

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VISITOR SERVICES

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce
32 E. Calhoun St., Sumter
803-775-1231
sumterchamber.com

Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce
155 Riverside Dr., Orangeburg
803-534-6821
orangeburgchamber.com

***Swan Lake Visitors Center**
822 W. Liberty St., Sumter
803-436-2640
sumtersc.gov/community/
swanlake

Town of Santee Tourism Office
176 Brooks Blvd., Santee
803-854-2152
santeetourism.com

***Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce**
225 N. Parler Ave., St. George
843-563-8187, tri-crcc.com

PEE DEE REGION

Turn to page 80 for more information on this region.

***Pee Dee Tourism Commission**
2513 W. Lucas St., #6, Florence
843-669-0950
peedeetourism.com

Bennettsville Visitor Center
304 W. Main St., Bennettsville
843-479-3941
bennettsvillesc.com

Dillon County Chamber of Commerce
100 N. MacArthur Ave., Dillon
843-774-0040
dilloncountychamber.com

***Dillon Welcome Center**
106 S. Railroad Ave., Dillon
843-774-0040
cityofdillonsc.gov/index

***Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau**
3290 W. Radio Dr., Florence
843-664-0330
visitflo.com

Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce
38 Public Square, Darlington
843-393-2641
darlingtonchamber.com

Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce
238 S. Coit St., Florence
843-665-0515
flochamber.com

Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
214 N. 5th St., Hartsville
843-332-6401
hartsvillechamber.org

***Greater Lake City Chamber of Commerce**
144 S. Acline St., Lake City
843-374-8611
lakecitysc.org

Hartsville Tourism
100 E. Carolina Ave., Hartsville
843-917-0602
visithartsville.com

Lee County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 187, Bishopville
803-483-2800
leecountychambersc.com

Marion Chamber of Commerce
209 E. Bobby Gerald Pkwy., Marion
843-423-3561
marionscchamber.com

Mullins Chamber of Commerce
100 N. Main St., Mullins
843-464-6651
mullinschamber.com

***South Carolina Tobacco Museum**
104 N.E. Front St., Mullins
843-464-8194
agriculture.sc.gov/agritourism-farms/south-carolina-tobacco-museum

Williamsburg Hometown Chamber
131 N. Academy St., Kingstree
843-355-6431
williamsburgsc.org

OLDE ENGLISH DISTRICT

Turn to page 85 for more information on this region.

Olde English District
P.O. Box 368, Fort Lawn
803-830-7286
oldeenglishdistrict.com

Cheraw Chamber of Commerce
221 Market St., Cheraw
843-537-7681
cherawchamber.com

***Chester County Chamber of Commerce**
109 Gadsden St., Chester
803-581-4142
chesterchamber.com

**Chesterfield County
Tourism Office**

700 West Blvd., Chesterfield
843-623-6500
discoverchesterfieldcounty.com

***Fairfield County Chamber**

100 N. Congress St.,
Winnsboro
803-635-4242
facebook.com/fairfieldccoc

**Greater Chesterfield
Chamber of Commerce**

100 Main St., Chesterfield
843-623-2131
chesterfield-sc.com

**Greater Clover
Chamber of Commerce**

118 Bethel St., Clover
803-222-3312
cloverchamber.org

**Historic Rock Hill
at The White Home**

258 E. White St., Rock Hill
803-329-1020
historicrockhill.com

**Kershaw County Chamber of
Commerce & Visitor Center**

80 Campus Dr., Camden
803-432-2525
kershawcountychamber.org

**Lake Wylie Chamber of
Commerce and Visitor Center**

264 Latitude Lane, Lake Wylie
803-831-2827
lakewyliesc.com

**Lancaster County
Chamber of Commerce**

453 Colonial Ave., Lancaster
803-283-4105
lancasterchambersc.org

***Revolutionary War
Visitor Center**

212 Broad St., Camden
803-272-0076
simplyrevolutionary.com

**Town of Cheraw
Office of Tourism**

200 Market St., Cheraw
843-537-8400
cheraw.com

**Union County
Chamber of Commerce**

135 W. Main St., Union
864-427-9039
unionsc.com

Visit York County

130 E. Main St., Rock Hill
803-329-5200
visityorkcounty.com

**York County Regional
Chamber of Commerce**

116 E. Main St., Rock Hill
803-324-7500
yorkcountychamber.com

OLD 96 DISTRICT

**Turn to page 90 for more
information on this region.**

**Old 96 District
Tourism Commission**

204 E. Public Square, Laurens
864-984-2233
visitold96sc.com

**Calhoun Falls
Chamber of Commerce**

401 N. Washington St.,
Calhoun Falls
864-418-8672
facebook.com/cfchamber

***Discover Greenwood**

120 Main St., Greenwood
866-493-8474
discovergreenwood.com

**Edgefield County Chamber
of Commerce & Edgefield
County Peach Museum**

416 Calhoun St., Johnston
803-275-0010
edgefieldcountychamber.net

Edgefield Discovery Center

405 Main St., Edgefield
803-637-4014
explorededgefield.com

***Greater Abbeville
Chamber of Commerce**

107 Court Square, Abbeville
864-366-4600
abbevillechamber.org

***McCormick County
Chamber of Commerce
and Visitor Center**

100 S. Main St., McCormick
864-852-2835
mccormickscchamber.org

Ninety Six Welcome Center

97 SC Hwy. 34, Ninety Six
864-543-4820
ninetysixsc.gov

**Tompkins Library &
Edgefield Welcome Center**

104 Courthouse Square,
Edgefield
803-637-4010
explorededgefield.com

***Visit Laurens County**

291 Professional Park Rd.,
Clinton
864-833-2716
visitlaurenscounty.com

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MYRTLE BEACH AREA & THE GRAND STRAND

Turn to page 92 for more
information on this region.

*** Myrtle Beach Area
Chamber of Commerce
& Visitor Bureau**
1200 N. Oak St., Myrtle Beach
843-626-7444
visitmyrtlebeach.com

**Conway Chamber
of Commerce**
203 Main St., Conway
843-248-2273
conwayscchamber.com

Conway Visitor Center
428 Main St., Conway
843-248-6260
conwayalive.com

**Georgetown County Chamber
of Commerce Visitor Center**
531 Front St., Georgetown
843-546-8436
visitgeorge.com

**Georgetown County Chamber
of Commerce/Hammock
Coast Visitor Center**
28 Wall St., Pawleys Island
843-546-8436
hammockcoastsc.com

**Little River
Chamber of Commerce**
440 Hwy. 90 E., Ste. 1,
Little River
843-249-6604
littleriverchamber.org

Loris Chamber of Commerce
4242 Main St., Loris
843-756-6030
lorischamber.com

*** Myrtle Beach Area
Chamber of Commerce
Airport Welcome Center**
1100 Jetport Rd., Myrtle Beach
843-626-7444
visitmyrtlebeach.com

*** North Myrtle Beach
Chamber of Commerce And
Convention & Visitors Bureau**
1521 US Hwy. 17 S.,
North Myrtle Beach
843-281-2662
northmyrtlebeachchamber.com

LOWCOUNTRY & RESORT ISLANDS

Turn to page 98 for more
information on this region.

*** Lowcountry & Resort
Islands Tourism Commission**
1 Lowcountry Lane, Yemassee
843-717-3090
southcarolinalowcountry.com

**Beaufort County Black
Chamber of Commerce**
711 Bladen St., Beaufort
843-986-1102
bcbcc.org

*** Beaufort/Port Royal
Convention & Visitors
Bureau-Visitor Center**
713 Craven St., Beaufort
843-525-8500
beaufortsc.org

*** Edisto Chamber of
Commerce**
42 Station Court, Edisto Island
843-869-3867
edistochamber.com

**Greater Bluffton
Chamber of Commerce**
217 Goethe Rd., Bluffton
843-757-7070
blufftonchamberof
commerce.org

**Hampton County
Chamber of Commerce**
200 E. Jackson Ave., Hampton
803-914-2143
hamptoncountychamber.org

*** Hilton Head Island-Bluffton
Chamber of Commerce**
216 Bluffton Rd., Bluffton
843-757-3673
hiltonheadchamber.org

*** Hilton Head Island-Bluffton
Chamber of Commerce &
Visitor & Convention Bureau**
1 Chamber of Commerce Dr.,
Hilton Head Island
843-785-3673
hiltonheadchamber.org

**Jasper County
Chamber of Commerce**
403 Russell St., Ridgeland
843-726-8126
jaspersc.org

**Walterboro-Colleton
Chamber of Commerce**
209 E. Washington St.,
Walterboro
843-549-9595
colletonchamber.org

HISTORIC CHARLESTON & RESORT ISLANDS

Turn to page 102 for more
information on this region.

*** Official Charleston
Area Visitor Center**
375 Meeting St., Charleston
800-774-0006
charlestoncvb.com

**Charleston Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau**
375 Meeting St., Charleston
843-853-8000
charlestoncvb.com

*** Greater Summerville/
Dorchester County
Visitor Center**
402 N. Main St., Summerville
843-873-2931
greatersummerville.org

*** Kiawah Island
Visitor Center**
4475 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy.,
Kiawah Island
843-768-9166
kiawahisland.org

*** Mount Pleasant
Visitor Center**
99 Harry M. Hallman Jr. Blvd.,
Mount Pleasant
843-884-8517
experiencemountpleasant.com

*** North Charleston
Visitor Center**
4975-B Centre Point Dr.,
North Charleston
843-740-5843
visitnorthcharleston.com

**Saint George Office/
Tri-County Regional
Chamber of Commerce
and Visitor Center**
225 Parler Ave., Saint George
843-563-8187
tri-crcc.com

CAPITAL CITY & LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY

Turn to page 107 for more
information on this region.

*** Capital City & Lake Murray
Country Tourism Region**
2184 N. Lake Dr., Columbia
803-781-5940
lakemurraycountry.com

**Batesburg-Leesville
Chamber of Commerce**
350 E. Columbia Ave.,
Batesburg-Leesville
803-532-4339
batesburg-leesvillechamber.org

**Blythewood
Chamber of Commerce**
428-4 McNulty St., Blythewood
803-403-6796
blythewoodchamber.com

**Columbia Metropolitan
Convention & Visitors Bureau**
1010 Lincoln St., Columbia
803-545-0000
experiencecolumbiasc.com

**Greater Cayce-West
Columbia Chamber &
Visitors Program**
1006 12th St., Cayce
803-794-6504
cwcchamber.com

**Greater Chapin
Chamber of Commerce**
302 Columbia Ave., Chapin
803-345-1100
chapinchamber.com

**Greater Columbia Area
Chamber of Commerce**
930 Richland St., Columbia
803-733-1155
columbiachamber.com

**Greater Irmo
Chamber of Commerce**
1235 Columbia Ave., Irmo
803-749-9355
greaterirmochamber.com

**Greater Lexington
Chamber and Visitor Center**
311 W. Main St., Lexington
803-359-6113
lexingtonsc.org

**Newberry County
Chamber of Commerce**
1209 Caldwell St., Newberry
803-276-4274
newberrycountychamber.com

**Saluda County
Chamber of Commerce**
120 S. Main St., Saluda
803-480-0249
saludacountychamber.com

**University of South Carolina
Visitor Center**
945 Bull St., Columbia
803-777-0169, sc.edu



REGION

THE UPCOUNTRY & LAKE HARTWELL COUNTRY

From dramatic cliffs and gorges to pristine lakes and waterfalls, this area is just plain awe-inspiring. Amidst all that natural beauty, find scenic cities with revitalized historic districts and thriving cultural hubs where museums, art galleries and concert halls beckon. In between, discover family-owned farms, sprawling peach and apple orchards, Revolutionary War sites and plenty of outdoor recreation.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Palmetto Distillery, Anderson | Fort Hill National Historic Landmark, Clemson | Falls Park on the Reedy, Greenville
The Village Bakery & Cafe, Pendleton | Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens | Hatcher Garden, Spartanburg | Gateway Park, Travelers Rest

Issaqueena Falls, Walhalla

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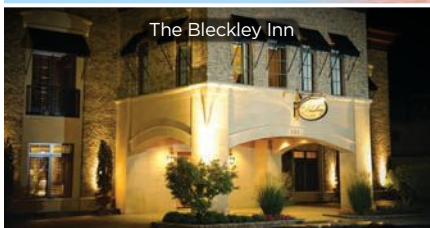
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Buenos Dias Restaurant



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WATERFALL COUNTRY

The Upcountry and Lake Hartwell region showcase South Carolina's mountainous beauty through dozens of breathtaking waterfalls. Find a waterfall hike to suit your adventure level.

● **Spoonauger Falls** near Mountain Rest offers one of the most accessible waterfall experiences, with a short walk leading to a 50-foot cascade.

● **Issaqueena Falls** in Walhalla tumbles 100 feet in a dramatic plunge, easily reached by a short hike to an overlook platform.

● **Station Cove Falls** is a stepped cascade at Oconee State Historic Site in Walhalla, where rare plants and seasonal wildflowers flourish along the 1.5-mile trail.

● **Brasstown Falls** in Westminster has a dramatic three-stage drop waterfall with viewing platforms built into the side of the mountain. Take it all in on the 1.5-mile round-trip walk.

■ **Fall Creek Falls** near Mountain Rest is a multi-tiered waterfall, with Andrew Ramey Falls and Pristine Falls along the way.

■ **Raven Cliff Falls** at Caesars Head State Park in Cleveland is a moderate hike featuring a suspension bridge overlook and breathtaking views of the 400-foot waterfall.

■ **Yellow Branch Falls** near Walhalla is accessed with a moderately difficult woodland hike that showcases a 50-foot vertical waterfall.

◆ **Rainbow Falls** in Marietta's Jones Gap State Park often touts rainbows in its mist—your reward for a strenuous 5-mile round-trip hike.

● Easy ■ Intermediate ◆ Hard

SPILLWAY VS. WATERFALL: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Spillways are hardworking water managers—built to prevent overflow and keep things safe around reservoirs and dams. Waterfalls, on the other hand? They're nature's showstoppers, tumbling over cliffs just to dazzle us with their beauty.

Raven Cliff Falls at Caesars Head State Park, Cleveland

SAVOR THE SEASONS

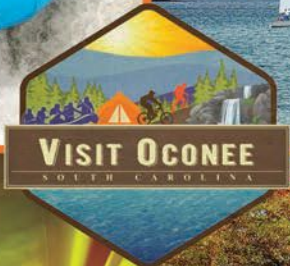
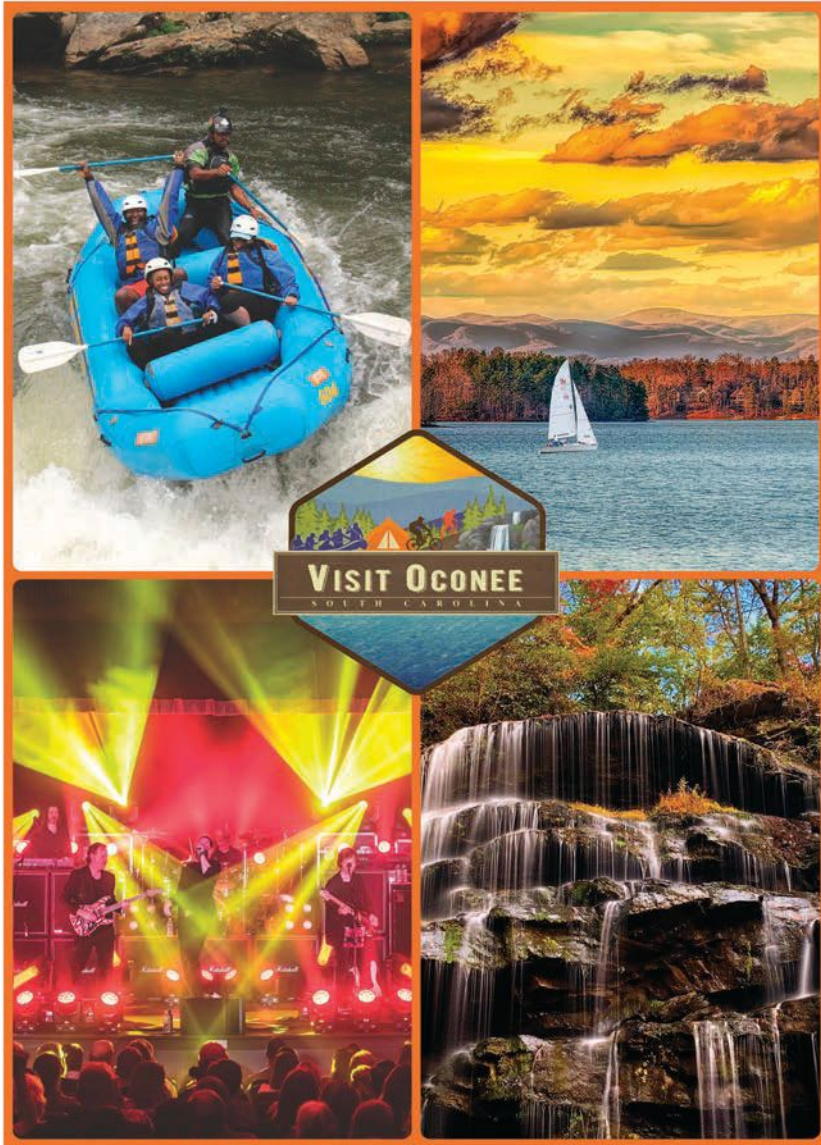
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Upstate Zipline at Keowee-Toxaway State Park, Sunset

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1 YELLOW BRANCH FALLS

Start your day in Walhalla before driving to Yellow Branch Falls, a show-stopping sight. Hike 1.5 miles down the trail to experience this stunning 50-foot cascade.

Contact: fs.usda.gov/r08/francismarionsumter/recreation/yellow-branch-falls

2 STUMPHOUSE TUNNEL

This man-made railroad tunnel began construction before the Civil War but was never finished, gaining new life as a tourist attraction — and, for a time, cheese storage.

Contact: Clemson.edu/bluecheese/history.html

3 WIGINGTON OVERLOOK

After a scenic drive up to the overlook, gaze over the rolling blue ridge and tranquil waters of Oconee and Pickens counties.

Contact: LakeHartwellCountry.com/scenic-overlooks

4 LAKE JOCASSEE

Lake Jocassee is clear, crisp and serene, largely free of busy crowds. Enter through Devils Fork State Park and find yourself nestled amongst the wilderness.

Contact: LakeHartwellCountry.com/lakes

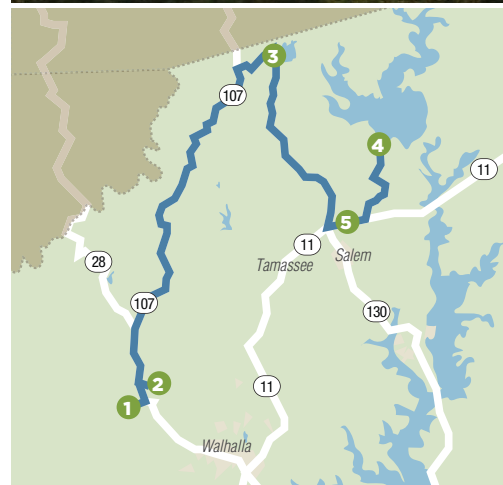
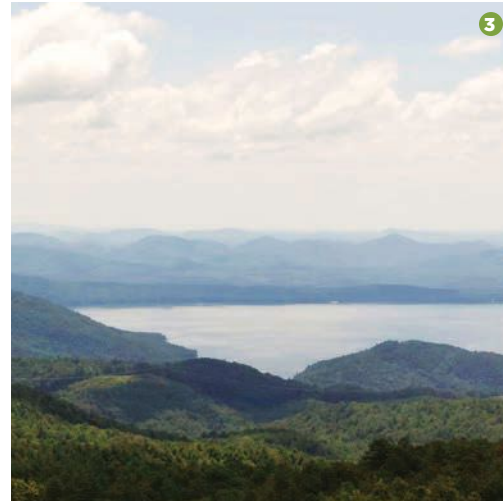
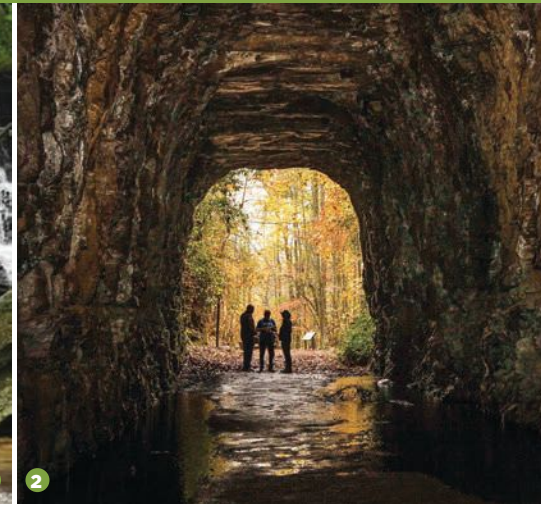
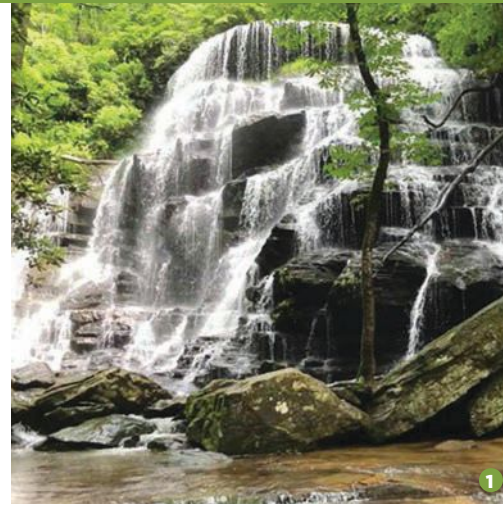
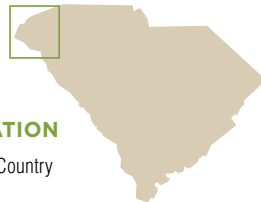
5 JOCASSEE VALLEY BREWING COMPANY

End the day with a cold pint and live music at this Salem-based taproom. There's nothing like a local brew to cap off your adventure.

Contact: JocasseeValleyBrewing.com

MORE INFORMATION

Lake Hartwell Country
864-646-3782
LakeHartwellCountry.com



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Spartanburg



SPONSORED CONTENT

DISCOVER 150 YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE CITY OF GREER

1 GREER GOLF

Tree-lined fairways, serene water features and strategic challenges set the scene for an incredible game on this historic, 18-hole golf course.

Contact: 864-877-9279
GreerGolf.com

2 GREER CITY PARK

Enjoy the beauty of this 12-acre park and mark your calendar for seasonal events like International Festival, Freedom Blast and Tunes in the Park.

Contact: 864-848-2190
CityofGreerSC.gov

3 GREER STATION

Explore brick-lined streets, independently owned boutiques and dynamic dining under the lights of Trade Street as the city gears up to celebrate 150 years of Greer.

Contact: 864-848-2150
DiscoverGreer.com

4 GREER HERITAGE MUSEUM

Dive into Greer's history or learn more about past "ruffians and scoundrels" during the popular ghost tours. Admission to the museum is free.

Contact: 864-877-3377
GreerHeritage.com

5 LAKE ROBINSON

Recreation abounds at this 800-acre lake, offering clean waters, three fishing piers, a boat ramp and rentable picnic shelters.

Contact: 864-848-5500
GreerCPW.com/lakes-recreation

MORE INFORMATION

Discover Greer
864-848-2150
DiscoverGreer.com



1



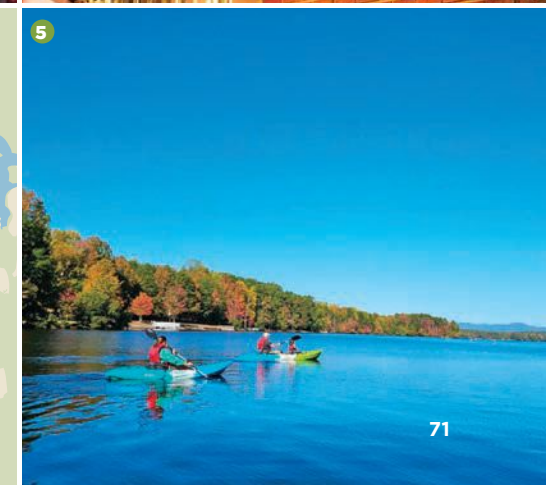
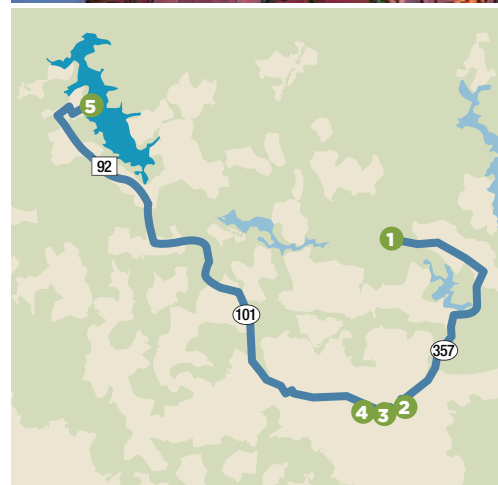
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3



4



5



Lake Jocassee



Juniper



Unity Park



CAMP Modern American Eatery



Wildcat Wayside Falls



Falls Park on the Reedy



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It's in our nature to surprise you with every step.
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DISCOVER
South Carolina

REGION

THOROUGHBRED COUNTRY

Preserving its time-honored equestrian heritage, this is the place to hear the thunder of hooves at thrilling steeplechase events, harness racing and polo matches. Spend your day exploring the picturesque countryside and tranquil state parks or pick up fresh finds at a farmers market. Then, stroll through the charming towns to discover antique stores, artisan shops, gourmet eateries, history museums and family-friendly activities.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES

Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum, Aiken | Red Bluff Lodge, Allendale | Cliff's Seafood & Grill, Bamberg | Little Red Barn Pottery & Art Gallery, Barnwell | Barnwell State Park, Blackville | Nelson's Wee Bake, Denmark | North Augusta Greenway Trail, North Augusta

Aiken Training Track, Aiken

EXPLORE *the Arts*

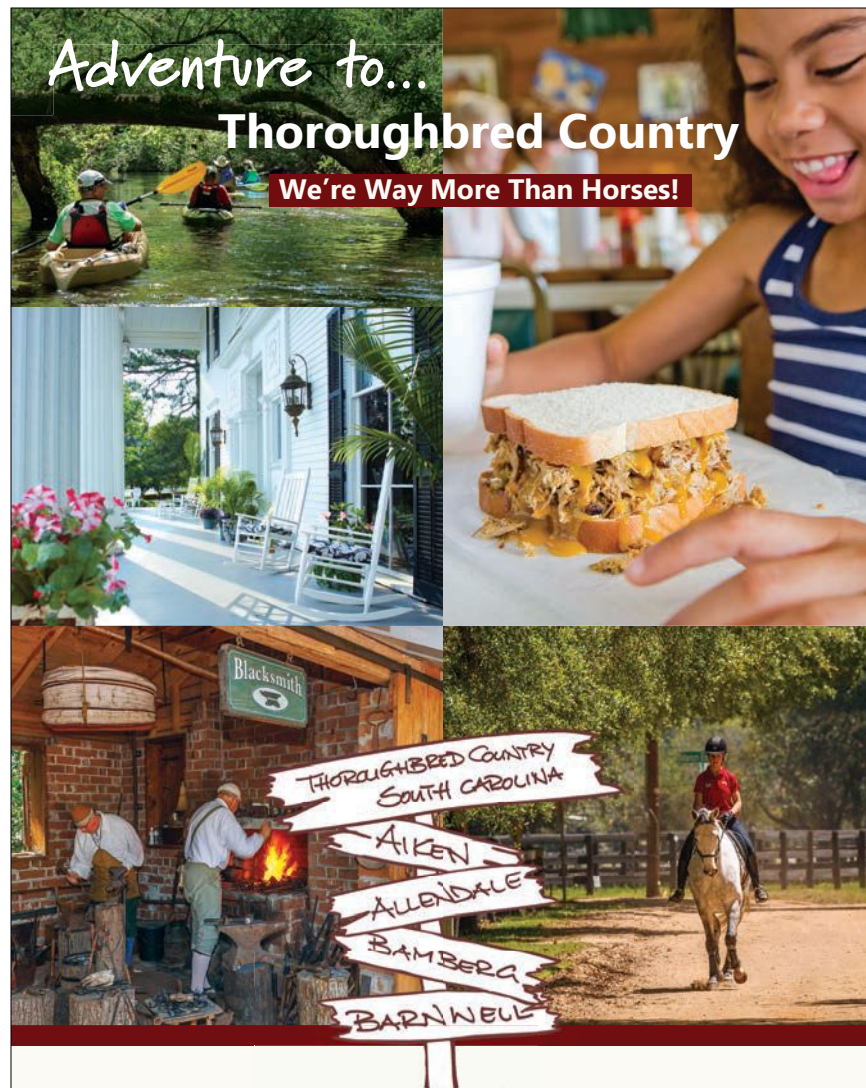
From gallery walls to outdoor stages, creativity runs deep within this region's roots. With art and culture blooming in every corner, the Thoroughbred Country will leave you inspired.

Start your journey in North Augusta at the **Arts & Heritage Center**, where exhibits showcase the rich tapestry of local history and regional talent. Time your visit for **Music in the Park**, a beloved free concert series on Thursdays in the summer that'll have your toes tapping.

Over in Aiken, stroll the charming downtown during the annual **Aiken Art Walk**, with the sidewalks transforming into pop-up galleries as artists showcase their works. Don't miss **Amp the Alley**: a Thursday-night favorite behind the Aiken Municipal Auditorium with live music, food and fun from spring through fall. Pop into the **Aiken Center for the Arts** to admire rotating exhibits or take a hands-on painting class.

In Barnwell, **Little Red Barn Pottery & Art Gallery** offers rustic charm and handmade treasures. And in Denmark, the **Jim Harrison Gallery** honors the late artist known for his Coca-Cola art and rural landscape pieces.

Little Red Barn Pottery & Art Gallery, Barnwell



Adventure to...
Thoroughbred Country
We're Way More Than Horses!

THOROUGHbred COUNTRY
SOUTH CAROLINA
AIKEN
ALLBIDALE
BAMBERG
BARNWELL

Explore a region filled with quaint small towns, historic and cultural sites, picturesque trails and unforgettable experiences.

Adventures
Start Here



www.TBredCountry.org

You're Invited

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VisitAikenSC.com

DISCOVER
South Carolina



AIKEN

STATE  PARK

Aiken State Park, Windsor



EXPLORE

outdoors



www.discoveraikencounty.com



REGION

Santee COOPER COUNTRY

From boating the wide-open waters of the “Great Lakes of South Carolina” to paddling between cypress and tupelo trees in blackwater creeks, this region attracts anglers, boaters, birdwatchers and swimmers. During the day, take your pick from golf courses, nature trails, historic battlegrounds and woodlands hunting. At night, discover low-key eateries and cultural gems in small towns.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner | Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center, Orangeburg | Santee State Park, Santee | The Palmetto Traverse at Santee Cooper Golf Resort, Santee | Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton | Sumter Opera House, Sumter

Santee State Park, Santee

SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY ADVENTURE

Starts Here



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You will be hooked the minute you arrive.

Scan here to plan your trip.



DISCOVER
South Carolina

SanteeCooperCountry.org | 803-854-2131 or 800-227-8510

BIG FISH STORIES

Known for record-breaking catches and cypress-studded shorelines, Santee Cooper Country is a favorite for freshwater fishing in South Carolina. With the expansive Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie at its heart, the region draws everyone from seasoned anglers to families looking for a relaxing day on the water.

Kick things off in Summerton with **Let's Go Charter Services**, where local experts help

you zero in on hot spots for massive catfish, crappie and striped bass. For self-guided experiences, **Santee State Park's** peaceful piers and convenient kayak launches make for an ideal day in nature. Over in Bonneau, the **Dennis Wildlife Center** fish hatchery offers a behind-the-scenes look at how these lakes stay stocked and sustainable.

When it's time to unwind, settle into waterfront accommodations at **Palmetto Shores RV**

Resort in Summerton or **Bells Marina & Resort** in Eutawville to clean your catch, grab a bite and recharge for the next day's outing.

Whether you're chasing your next trophy or just enjoying an afternoon under the South Carolina sun, this is the perfect place to cast a line.



Lake Marion

GOLF SEASON? *Always.*

WELCOME TO LAKE MARION
GOLF COURSE

Lake Marion Golf Course, Santee



Explore the Hidden Gem of Berkeley County
Eat, Shop, Play & Stay



MEADE AGENCY

Adventure, history, shopping, dining, and amazing accommodations are all in Berkeley County... a quick 20 minutes to Historic Downtown Charleston.

DISCOVER 

SanteeCooperCountry.org

REGION

PEE DEE REGION

Named for the area's first residents—the Pee Dee Indian Tribe—this region is rich with the natural beauty of the outdoors: free-flowing rivers, wildlife-filled swamplands and blooming gardens. Time travel at Revolutionary War and Civil War sites, stroll through architecturally diverse historic districts, and learn about the area's agrarian past at tobacco and cotton farms and museums.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLINGTON RACEWAY



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Marlboro County Museum Complex, Bennettsville | South Carolina Cotton Museum, Bishopville | Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve, Darlington | Little Pee Dee State Park, Dillon | Palmetto Peddlers, Florence | Kalmia Gardens, Hartsville | Moore Farms Botanical Garden, Lake City | Big John's Soul Food Restaurant & BBQ Grill, Marion

Darlington Raceway, Darlington



PURE FAMILY FUN IN PEE DEE

In the Pee Dee Region, pint-sized thrills are easy to come by—and parents will love every squeal of joy. On race weekends at **Darlington Raceway**, the rumble of engines thrills NASCAR fans of all ages (bring ear protection for younger kids). Look out for legends so the little ones

can get autographs! Kids under 12 get in free at **Dillon Motor Speedway**, where you all can get a closer look at grassroots stock-car racing that's sure to spark wide-eyed wonder in future drivers.

In the heat of summer, cool off at **Neptune Island Waterpark** in

Hartsville. This tropical oasis overflows with mild-to-wild slides, a float-along lazy river, towering drops for daring big kids (and adults) and gentle splash zones for the little ones. For indoor (read: air-conditioned) fun, jump into action at **Sky Zone Trampoline Park** in Florence. Wall-to-wall trampolines, foam pits and obstacle courses keep kids entertained for hours, rain or shine. It all makes for family fun that lingers long after the vacation ends.

Neptune Island Waterpark, Hartsville

Visit
HARTSVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA

DISCOVER
South Carolina

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South Carolina

*Exit the Ordinary.
Explore Florence, SC*

Just off of I-95 and I-20, Florence is more than a quick stop — it's a place to eat, explore, and unwind. From local flavors to hidden trails, adventure is just an exit away.

Visit **FLO**  .COM



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SPONSORED CONTENT

EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOORS OF THE PEE DEE REGION

1 LEE STATE PARK

Lee State Park is a serene natural retreat where outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking, picnicking, fishing and camping surrounded by beautiful scenery and wildlife.

Contact: 803-428-5307
SouthCarolinaParks.com/lee

2 DARLINGTON RACEWAY

Experience the excitement at Darlington Raceway, home of NASCAR's historic Southern 500, where the legendary "Too Tough to Tame" track delivers unforgettable thrills for racing fans.

Contact: 866-459-7223
DarlingtonRaceway.com

3 LITTLE PEE DEE STATE PARK

Little Pee Dee State Park in Dillon offers tranquil Sandhills scenery, lakeside fishing on Lake Norton, camping, hiking through Carolina Bay landscapes and easy access off I-95.

Contact: 843-774-8872
SouthCarolinaParks.com/little-pee-dee

4 AMAZING GRACE PARK

Amazing Grace Park in Marion—featuring the Clementa Pinckney Memorial, museum, park and playground—invites visitors to honor legacy while cherishing beauty and hope.

Contact: 843-601-8824
AmazingGracePark.org

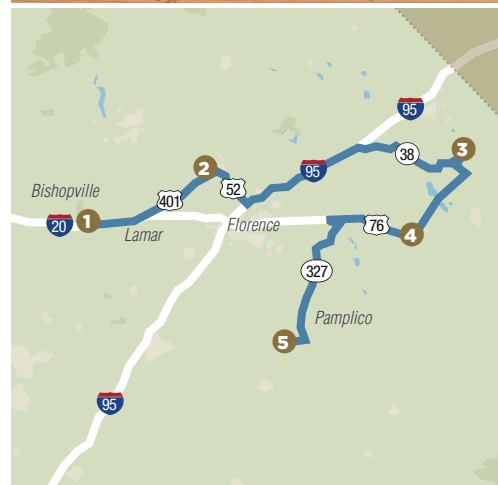
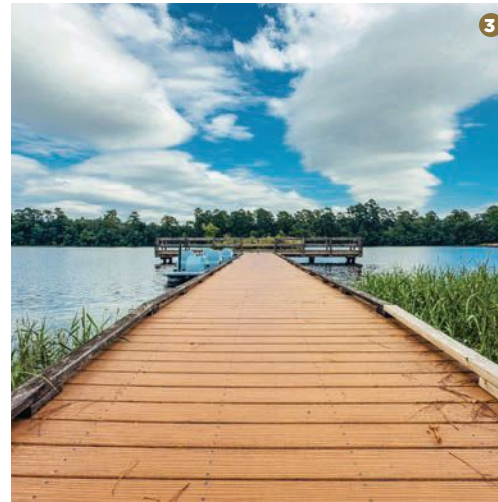
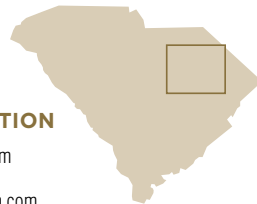
5 FOLLOW THE REVOLUTIONARY RIVERS

Paddle the 66-mile National Water Trail through swamplands once used by Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," surrounded by history, wildlife, natural beauty and rustic camping.

Contact: 843-664-0330
FoRevR.us

MORE INFORMATION

Pee Dee Tourism
843-669-0950
PeeDeeTourism.com





NEPTUNE ISLAND
HARTSVILLE, SC



DISCOVER
South Carolina

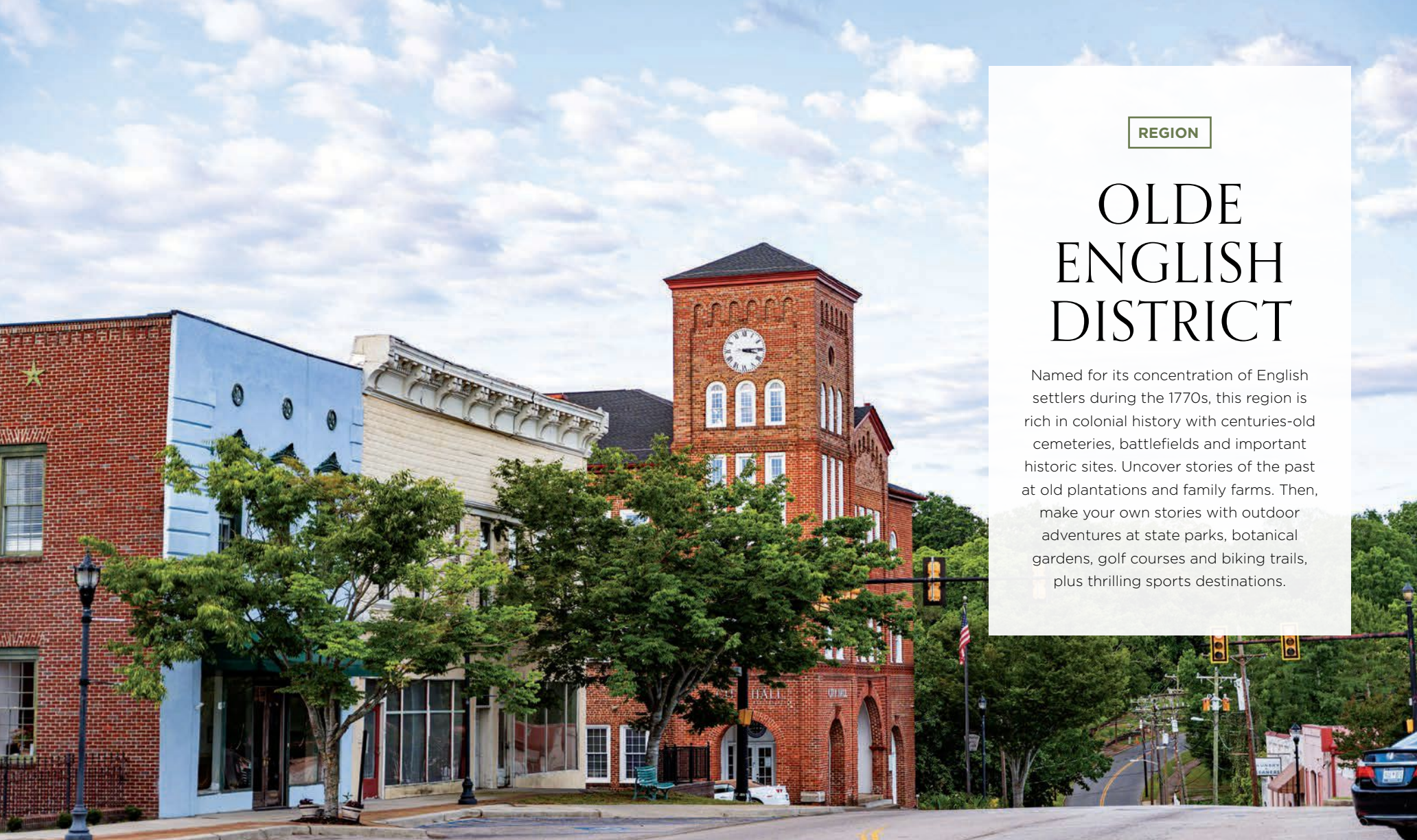


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at LoveSumter.com

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South Carolina



REGION

OLDE ENGLISH DISTRICT

Named for its concentration of English settlers during the 1770s, this region is rich in colonial history with centuries-old cemeteries, battlefields and important historic sites. Uncover stories of the past at old plantations and family farms. Then, make your own stories with outdoor adventures at state parks, botanical gardens, golf courses and biking trails, plus thrilling sports destinations.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Chester Historic District, Chester | Cheraw State Park Golf Course, Cheraw | Camden Archives & Museum, Camden
East Main Street Historic District, Chesterfield | Fort Mill History Museum, Fort Mill | Carolina Motorsports Park, Kershaw | Andrew Jackson
State Park, Lancaster | Glencairn Garden, Rock Hill

Downtown Chester



DISCOVER
South Carolina

DISCOVER CHESTER COUNTY

ADVENTURE, CHARM & RELAXATION YEAR-ROUND

- Cast a line, take a hike, paddle the lake, or play a round of disc golf at **Chester State Park**, a timeless Civilian Conservation Corps retreat.
- Witness the breathtaking bloom of **Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies** each spring at **Landsford Canal State Park**.
- Stroll through **Downtown Chester's historic district**, where 19th-century charm meets local shopping and dining.
- Experience the rush of **Great Falls Whitewater and the Catawba River**, offering some of the Southeast's best new rapids for paddling and adventure.



For more information,
InChesterCountySC.com



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Tail-Wagging TRAILS & ALES

Adventures await in the Olde English District, where you and your canine companions can explore outdoors, sip local brews and relax in furry-friendly accommodations.

Leash up your pup to explore the **Anne Springs Close Greenway** in Fort Mill. Well-worn trails take you through towering pines, under a railroad trestle or around the peacefully still Lake Haigler. Pets are also welcome at **Chester State Park**, an outdoor retreat for fishing or kayaking as well as hiking tranquil trails. Or choose from the

network of pathways that are part of the **Carolina Thread Trail**, most of which are flat and perfect for pets needing to burn off energy.

In Rock Hill, **Off the Tracks Brewing** welcomes pets and their humans to lounge in the shade of the patio. Sip a pint of Killing Me Smalls saison or Midas Touch golden ale and enjoy a hand-tossed pizza or focaccia sandwich. After a walk through the vineyard of **Laurel Haven Estate** in Lancaster, rest up with your best friend by your side in its pet-friendly bed-and-breakfast.



Anne Springs Close Greenway, Fort Mill

CARISSA ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

STEP INTO HISTORY, STAY FOR THE *Adventure.*

WELCOME TO THE OED

Experience history and adventure in the Olde English District. Spanning seven counties, there's something for everyone. From exploring Revolutionary War history to strolling peaceful trails around the lake, your journey begins here.

OLDE *English* DISTRICT

DISCOVER
South Carolina



VISIT
York
County
SOUTH CAROLINA

SCAN TO DIVE INTO YORK COUNTY



There's a whole lot going on in York County, SC!

VISITYORKCOUNTY.COM



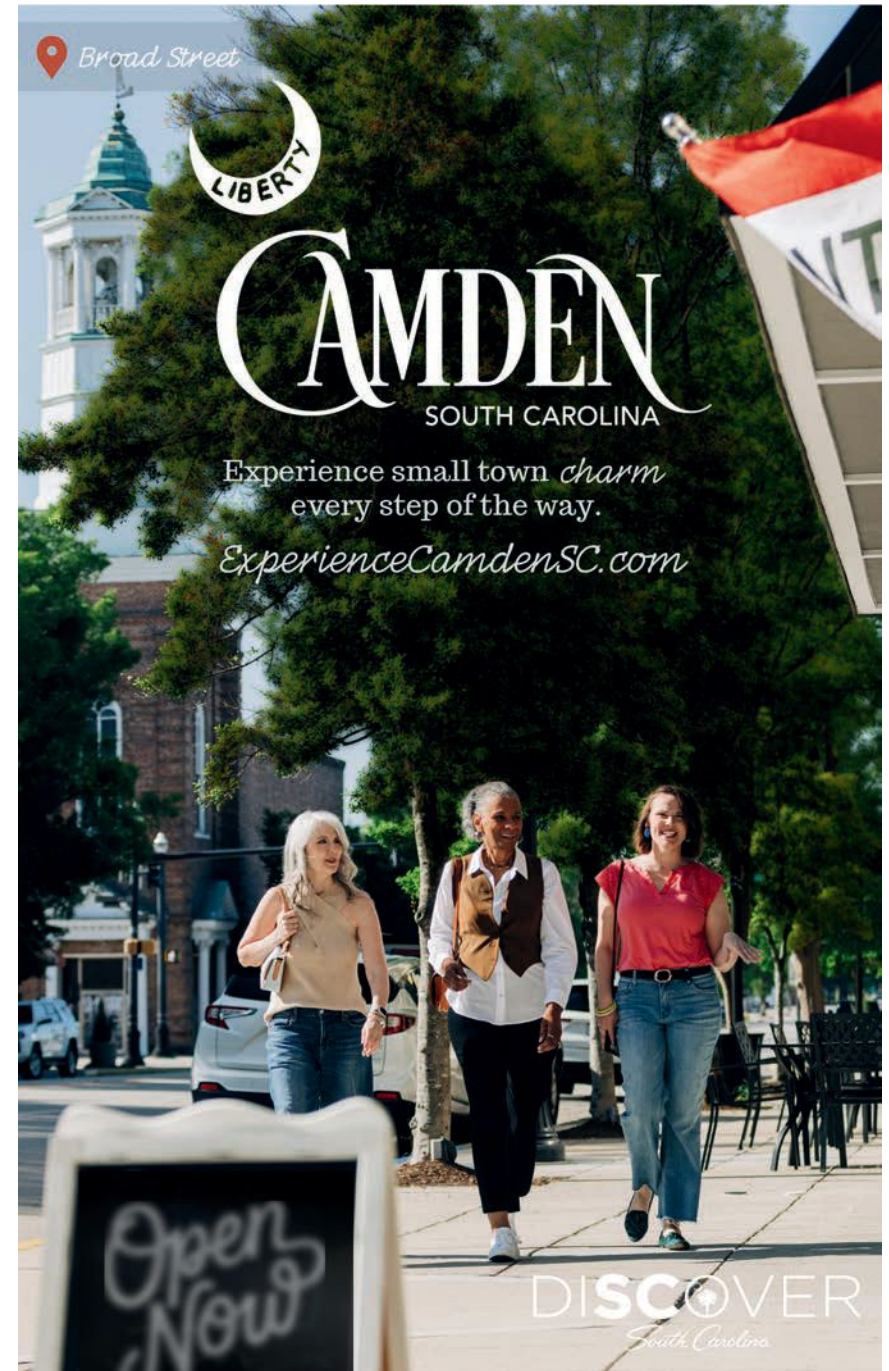
DISCOVER LANCASTER, SC

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 www.lancastercitysc.com


LANCASTER
SOUTH CAROLINA
THE RED ROSE CITY





REGION

OLD 96 DISTRICT

Charming small towns dot the rural landscape of this region, where you'll find freshwater lakes, state parks and Revolutionary War battle sites—all just minutes from historic downtown areas, community theaters and 1800s mansions converted into museums. Take a leisurely drive through the pastoral landscapes and, along the way, pull over at rustic farm stands and U-pick berry fields.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES

The Burt-Stark Mansion, Abbeville | The Belmont Inn, Abbeville | Sara's Fresh Market, Trenton
Greenwood Railroad Historical Center, Greenwood | Laurens Historic District, Laurens | Heritage Gold Mine Park, McCormick
96 Pecan Company - Murray Farms, Ninety Six

Titan Farms, Ridge Spring

Gone Paddlin'

LAKE GREENWOOD STATE PARK, NINETY SIX

Time your trip around sunrise, when mist rises off the lake and creates an enchanted atmosphere. The flat, calm cove around Souls Harbor is a perfect place for beginners to gain experience.

PALMETTO PINES OUTFITTERS, MCCORMICK

Save the trip and have a kayak or paddleboard brought to you to maximize your paddling time on Strom Thurmond Reservoir, where you'll explore tributaries, traverse wide-open waters and soak up 1,200 miles of forested shoreline.

HICKORY KNOB STATE RESORT PARK, MCCORMICK

Another paddling hot spot on vast Strom Thurmond Reservoir, you can rent your watercraft right from the park, which is also home to lodge-style rooms, a golf course, restaurant and hiking and biking trails.

LITTLE RIVER BLUEWAY, MCCORMICK

With 51 miles of water trails, the blueway carries you past farmland, under bridges and through gentle eddies and springs. Look out for flora and fauna like trumpet creepers, jewelweed, belted kingfishers, blue herons, river otters and beavers.

Lake Greenwood State Park, Ninety Six

Old 96 District: Discover the Unexpected Wonders



Abbeville County



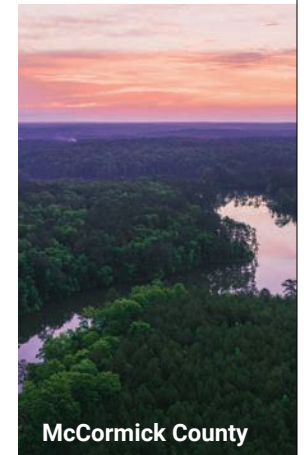
Edgefield County



Greenwood County



Laurens County



McCormick County

Old 96 District
SOUTH CAROLINA
Unexpected Wonders

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood,
Laurens, and McCormick Counties

DISCOVER
South Carolina



SCAN HERE
TO LEARN MORE

REGION

MYRTLE BEACH AREA & THE GRAND STRAND

When you're ready for action, South Carolina's Grand Strand is the place to be. Soaring resorts, family-friendly attractions and trendy restaurants are just steps from more than 60 miles of beaches. For a slower pace and natural beauty, retreat to a relaxed barrier island in the Hammock Coast area; or, for timeless music and moves, head to North Myrtle Beach to the birthplace of the state dance, the "Carolina Shag."



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Conway Riverwalk, Conway | Hopsewee Plantation, Georgetown | Atalaya Castle at Huntington Beach State Park, Murrells Inlet | The Carolina Opry Theater, Myrtle Beach | Alligator Adventure, North Myrtle Beach | Pawleys Island Chapel, Pawleys Island

Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Promenade, Myrtle Beach

SHOW TIME

Get ready to stare in wide-eyed wonder at these extravaganzas in Myrtle Beach & The Grand Strand region.

The Carolina Opry Theater

Each year brings new dances, songs, costumes and a non-stop frolic from fiddling champions, bluegrass virtuosos, vocalists, cloggers, comedians and more.

Polynesian Fire Luau

Don your lei, plate up the fish of the day at the buffet and surrender to the rhythms, harmonies and storytelling of Polynesian music and dance.

Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show

What's a night out without acrobatic pirates, mermaids and a sea lion swashbuckling around a pirate ship while you enjoy a four-course feast?

Legends in Concert

Just try not to lose your cool when tributes for Michael Jackson, Elvis, Tina Turner, Alan Jackson and Dolly Parton take center stage.

Alabama Theatre

See what's on stage during your visit, from tribute bands and comedians to musical revues and Christmas spectaculars.

The Great Christmas Light Show

On the way to meet Santa, drive through a couple magnificent miles in North Myrtle Beach to see animated holiday scenes crafted from 2 million lights (seasonal).

“Pawleys Island is the
BEST BEACH
in SOUTH CAROLINA.”

— USA Today/10th Best



Pawleys Island, SC

ONLYPAWLEYS.COM

DISCOVER
South Carolina



Pawleys Island, the oldest seaside resort in America, was named “South Carolina’s Best Beach” by USA Today/10Best readers two years in a row. Discover why beachgoers have loved it since the 1700s.

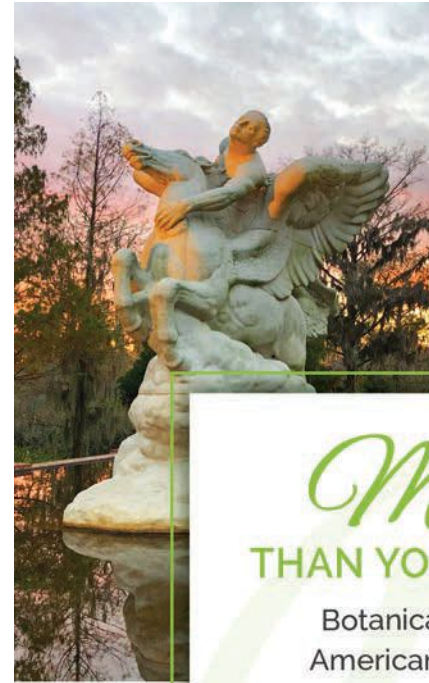


TIME TO *Discover Georgetown*

WATERFRONT VIEWS | CULINARY DELIGHTS | ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOPS | MUSEUMS



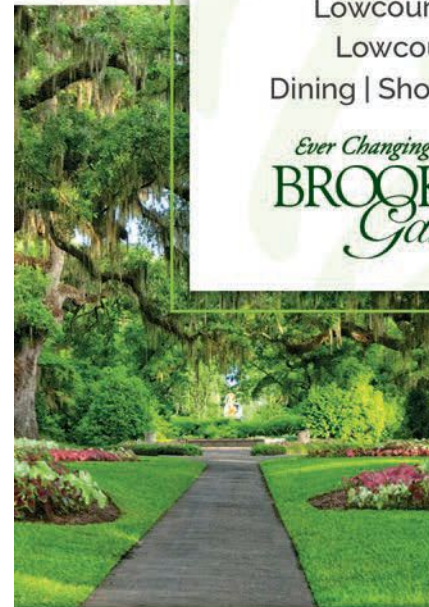
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DISCOVER SOUTH CAROLINA'S HAMMOCK COAST

1 HOPSEWEE PLANTATION

Celebrate America's 250th birthday at Hopsewee Plantation—the home of Thomas Lynch Jr., who literally put his mark on U.S. history as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Enjoy tours, Gullah Geechee interpretations, an English afternoon tea and more.

Contact: Hopsewee.com

2 HOBCAW BARONY

An intriguing mix of colonial, 20th-century and modern history, Hobcaw Barony encompasses a rich diversity of every common ecosystem found on the SC coast.

Contact: HobcawBarony.org

3 PAWLEYS ISLAND

USA Today says the Hammock Coast has 3 of SC's best beaches: Pawleys Island (No. 1), Litchfield Beach (No. 3) and Huntington Beach State Park (No. 4).

Contact: HammockCoastSC.com

4 BROOKGREEN GARDENS

Since 1931, Brookgreen Gardens has offered a unique melding of art, nature and history as one of America's premier sculpture gardens and zoos.

Contact: Brookgreen.org

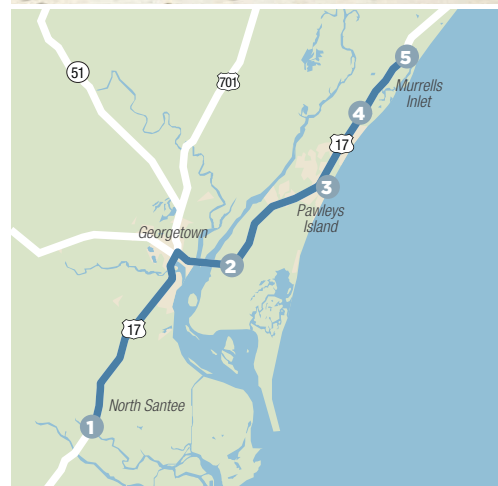
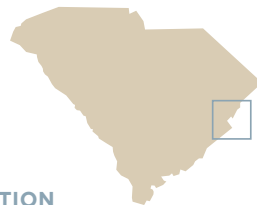
5 MURRELLS INLET

From the iconic MarshWalk showcasing 8 of the Hammock Coast's top restaurants, to fishing charters, pirate sailings and more at Crazy Sister Marina, Express Watersports and Seakart Adventure, it seems Murrells Inlet—"the Seafood Capital of South Carolina"—has it all!

Contact: HammockCoastSC.com

MORE INFORMATION

South Carolina's Hammock Coast
Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce
843-546-8436
HammockCoastSC.com





**SOUTH CAROLINA'S
HAMMOCK COAST
GOLF TRAIL**

PAWLEYS ISLAND | MURRELLS INLET | LITCHFIELD BEACH
GARDEN CITY | GEORGETOWN | ANDREWS

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AQUARIUM
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ALL NEW GALLERY!
GOLDFISH REALM

CURIOSITY LIVES HERE!



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*Atalaya
Arts & Crafts
Festival*

HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK,
MURRELLS INLET




**Myrtle Beach
escape**



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FIND MORE OF WHAT YOU LOVE IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Whether you're looking to treasure family time, soak up blissful moments, savor coastal flavors, or make a splash, vacationing your way in North Myrtle Beach is easy.

Discover the perfect mix of relaxation and adventure with room to slow down, reconnect, and find **more of what you love** in every moment.

Start planning your getaway at
ExploreNorthMyrtleBeach.com



Waterfront Dining



Family-Friendly Activities



Shag Dancing





REGION

LOWCOUNTRY & RESORT ISLANDS

The hectic pace of life seems to slow down when you head to the Lowcountry, where Spanish moss-draped oak trees and wild marshlands set the scene for relaxation. Here, fishing, sailing, kayaking, hunting and sunset watching are common pastimes. Bike along the beachfront trails and beneath the shade of subtropical maritime forests, tee off on iconic golf courses, fill up on Gullah-inspired soul food and stay in historic mansions turned into B&Bs.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES

Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, Beaufort | Heyward House - Museum and Welcome Center, Bluffton | Edisto Island Serpentarium, Edisto Island | The Bonito Boathouse, Fripp Island | Hilton Head Island Bike Trails, Hilton Head Island | Hunting Island State Park, Hunting Island | Shrimp Shack, St. Helena Island | Colleton County Museum & Farmers Market, Walterboro

Hudson's Seafood House On The Docks, Hilton Head Island

BOAT TOURS

EXPERIENCE COASTAL BEAUTY IN THE
LOWCOUNTRY & RESORT ISLANDS REGION.

► **COASTAL EXPEDITIONS TO
ST. PHILLIPS ISLAND**

Cruise from St. Helena Island to remote St. Phillips Island at Hunting Island State Park, then hike wild trails where sea turtles nest and bald eagles soar.

► **SUNDAY BRUNCH CRUISE WITH
VAGABOND CRUISE**

Pair traditional Lowcountry-style dishes with a sparkling mimosa and ocean views off Hilton Head Island. Watch for bottlenose dolphins along the way.

► **OYSTER HATCHERY KAYAK
PADDLE TOUR AND TASTING
WITH BEAUFORT KAYAK TOURS**

Paddle through a salt marsh with a delicious reward: a guided tasting at an oyster farm in Beaufort. Learn how they're harvested and what makes this region's oysters distinct.

► **BOOGIE MAN FISHING CHARTERS**

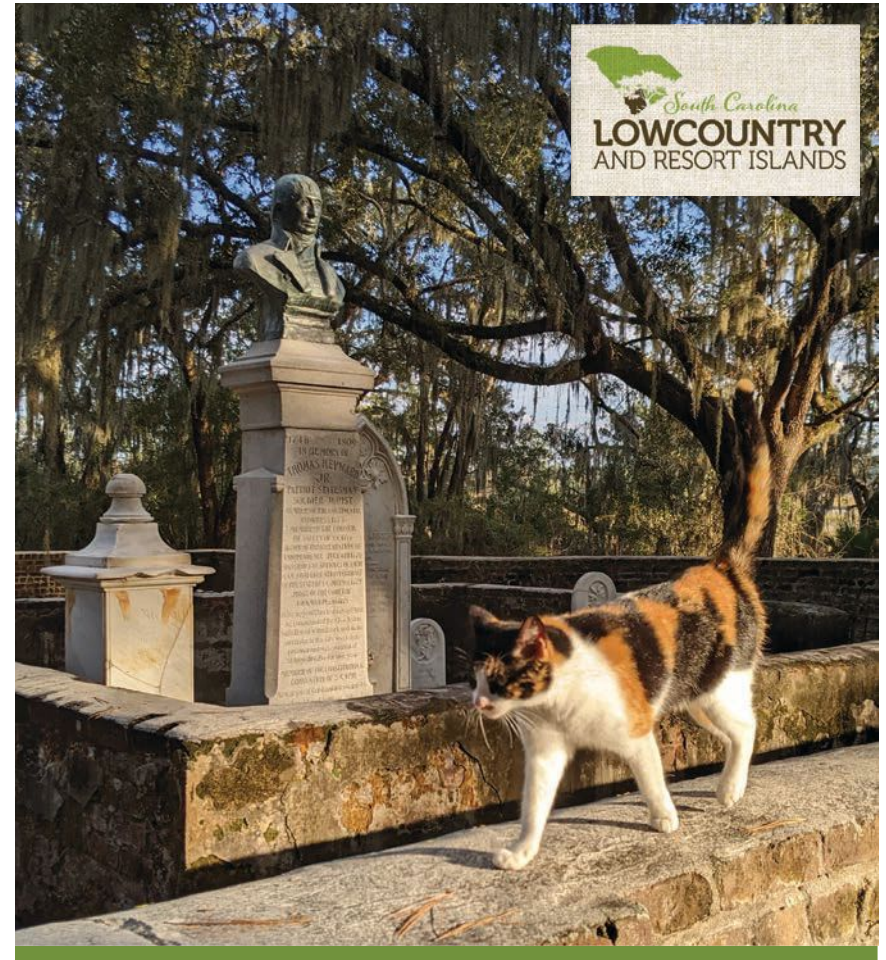
Book a private inshore fishing trip on St. Helena Island to snag flounder, redfish and others. The captain makes it easy by providing all the gear and tackle. Just bring your sunscreen and good luck.

► **BEACHCOMBING CRUISE WITH
OUTSIDE HILTON HEAD**

Take a tour from Hilton Head Island to the "Vanishing Island" sandbar that only appears at low tide to hunt for shells, sand dollars and starfish. Keep an eye out for dolphins, blue crabs and osprey.



St. Phillips Island



Naturally AMAZING

The Lowcountry is a beautiful, wonderful, historic place. One where Revolutionary War bravery and Gullah traditions run deep in our roots. Come see why all of this, and so much more, just comes naturally here.

DISCOVER
South Carolina

EIGHT YEARS. ONE ISLAND.
TIMELESS.

Memories



Hilton Head Island is a Readers' Choice Award winner for the eighth consecutive year. We're proud to be recognized for our natural beauty, endless beaches, rich history, vibrant arts, culinary offerings, and family-friendly experiences.

Thank you for making America's Favorite Island® part of your memories.

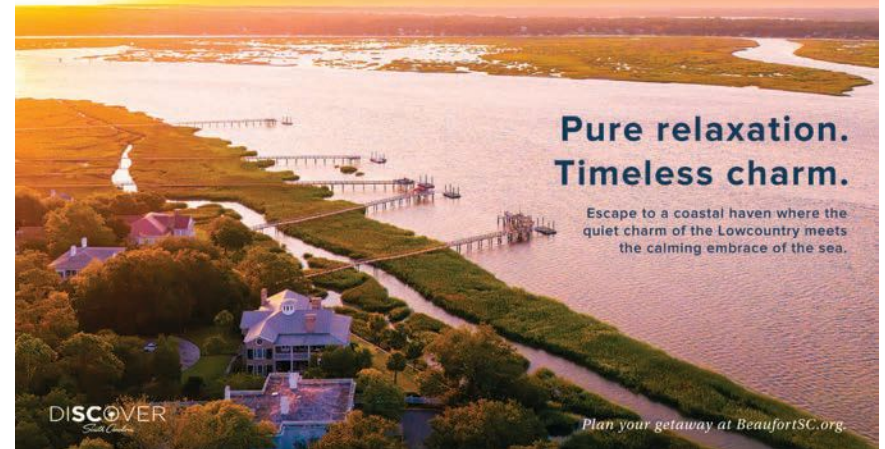
HiltonHeadIsland.org



**HILTON HEAD
ISLAND**
SOUTH CAROLINA

DISCOVER
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VISIT
BEAUFORT
PORT ROYAL SEA ISLANDS



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Timeless charm.**

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HISTORIC CHARLESTON & RESORT ISLANDS

As one of the country's most beautifully preserved architectural treasures, the historic city of Charleston features cobblestone streets, pastel mansions with lacy wrought-iron balconies, homes turned museums and grand hotels. Just outside downtown, award-winning golf courses overlook the Atlantic Ocean, stately plantations hold centuries of stories, and the laid-back Sea Islands beckon with sandy beaches and casual dock-and-dine eateries.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Old South Carriage Co., Charleston | Folly Beach | Tidal Wave Water Sports, Isle of Palms | Freshfields Village, Kiawah Island | Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, Mount Pleasant | Tanger Outlets Charleston, North Charleston | Seabrook Beach, Seabrook Island | Fort Moultrie National Historical Park, Sullivan's Island | Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, Summerville

International African American Museum, Charleston

CHARLESTON

South Carolina

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MICHELIN *Approved*

Earning a coveted MICHELIN Star is one of the highest honors in the culinary world. Michelin also recognizes restaurants for delivering exceptional food at a great value in their Bib Gourmand category.

Scan the QR code to see the full list of MICHELIN recommended restaurants in South Carolina.



Leon's Oyster Shop, Charleston

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Incredible HOTEL RESTAURANTS

COURTESY OF THE DUNLIN, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

Linnette's at The Dunlin, Johns Island

The Charleston area's most luxurious hotels are culinary destinations that offer world-class dining alongside graceful Southern hospitality.

Linnette's at The Dunlin on Johns Island offers sophisticated coastal cuisine in a breathtaking oceanfront setting. The restaurant emphasizes locally sourced ingredients transformed into innovative dishes celebrating Lowcountry flavors and modern techniques. Bonus: the panoramic marsh views provide the perfect backdrop for memorable dining experiences.

Circa 1886 at Wentworth Mansion brings fine dining to one of Charleston's most opulent historic hotels. Located in the former carriage house of a 19th-century mansion, the restaurant combines architectural splendor with expertly crafted contemporary American cuisine. The intimate dining rooms, complete with period details, create an atmosphere of refined elegance.

Jasmine Porch at The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort epitomizes resort dining excellence.

This oceanfront restaurant specializes in elevated Southern cuisine featuring fresh seafood and regional specialties. The setting offers views of the lushly landscaped grounds, making every meal feel like a special occasion.

The Rise Coffee Bar at The Restoration in Charleston redefines hotel coffee culture with artisanal beverages (such as a honey lavender latte), gourmet baked goods and light bites. This stylish cafe serves as a morning coffee destination and an all-day gathering spot.

SPONSORED CONTENT

MAKE THE MOST OF THE COAST IN MOUNT PLEASANT

1 OLD VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT & PITT STREET BRIDGE

Step into the Old Village Historic District to see charming houses and to visit boutique shops and eateries. Make your way to Pitt Street Bridge for one of the most scenic coastal views in the Lowcountry.

Contact:

ExperienceMountPleasant.com/pitt-street-bridge

2 SHEM CREEK BOARDWALKS & WATERFRONT DISTRICT

Stroll over 2,000 feet of boardwalks, paddle your way through the surrounding waterways, and watch for dolphins to find yourself in paradise at Shem Creek.

Contact:

ExperienceMountPleasant.com/shem-creek-waterfront

3 PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

Walk in the footsteps of United States military heroes, spanning from WWII to the Vietnam War, while exploring the museum, historic aircraft and exhibits.

Contact:

ExperienceMountPleasant.com/patriots-point-museum

4 SWEETGRASS CULTURAL ARTS PAVILION & BASKET MAKERS HIGHWAY

Discover the Gullah Geechee art of sweetgrass basket weaving at this pavilion at Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park. Drive on North Highway 17 where makers set up stands.

Contact:

ExperienceMountPleasant.com/point-of-interest/sweetgrass-cultural-arts-pavilion

5 BOONE HALL PLANTATION & GARDENS

Explore one of America's oldest working farms where you can delve into the history of the plantation with a variety of presentations, tours and exhibits.

Contact:

ExperienceMountPleasant.com/boone-hall-plantation-gardens



MORE INFORMATION

Town of Mount Pleasant
843-884-8517
ExperienceMountPleasant.com



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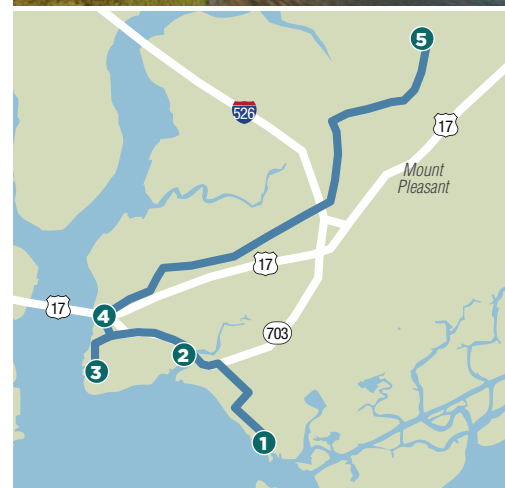
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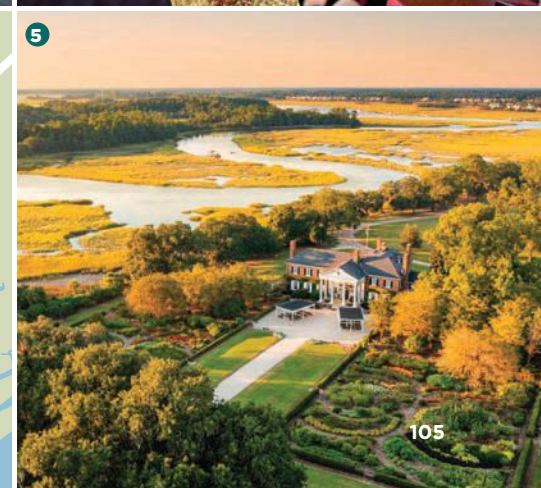
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105



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Charleston, SC | USS Yorktown | USS Laffey | Vietnam Experience | 27 Military Aircraft | Medal of Honor Museum

DISCOVER
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REGION

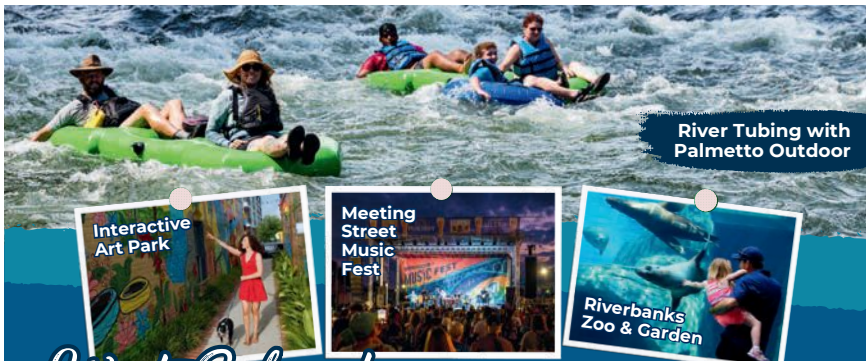
CAPITAL CITY & LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY

From enclaves of art galleries and the energetic nightlife districts of South Carolina's capital city to nature trails winding through old-growth forests and lakefront adventures—plus three scenic rivers running through it all—this region seamlessly blends big-city culture and outdoor pursuits. See where historic buildings are living new lives as trendy restaurants and breweries, and where quiet, tree-lined streets lead you through welcoming neighborhoods.



REGIONAL MUST-SEES Timmerman Trail, Cayce | Lake Murray, Chapin | South Carolina State Museum, Columbia | Harbison Theatre at Midlands Technical College, Irmo | Congaree National Park, Hopkins | Hollow Creek Distillery, Leesville | Big Mans Marina, Leesville | Newberry Opera House, Newberry | Old Mill Antique Mall, West Columbia

Sesquicentennial State Park, Columbia



River Tubing with Palmetto Outdoor

Interactive Art Park

Meeting Street Music Fest

Riverbanks Zoo & Garden

West Columbia Located just across the river from Columbia, West Columbia is ideal for **river sports, dining on State and Meeting streets, shopping** for antiques, and visiting attractions like **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden**.

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TIM PALMER PHOTOGRAPHY



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WHERE FOOD RISES ABOVE THE ORDINARY!

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Photo Credit: Forrest Clonts, Columbia Food & Wine Festival

THE *Devil* IS IN THE *Details*

Columbia-area restaurants have transformed the classic deviled egg from a simple party appetizer into an elevated culinary experience.

In Columbia, start your tasting tour at **The Hollow** (known for forest-to-table cuisine), which features a deviled duck egg flight with fresh local ingredients. **Smoked** serves decadent deviled eggs topped with fresh lobster, and James Beard semifinalist **Spotted Salamander** offers several rotating versions, including blue cheese, bacon, ham jam and sweet and spicy pecans. **Cola's Restaurant** serves Southern-fried

deviled eggs, adding textural contrast with their crispy exterior. And **Hendrix** spices up the classics with glazed pork belly topping and Gochujang sauce.

Cork & Cleaver Steakhouse in Lexington delivers brisket candy deviled eggs topped with pickled okra and candied hot sauce in an upscale steakhouse atmosphere.

Steelhorse Smokehouse in Newberry offers a choice of deviled eggs topped with pulled pork, barbecue sauce and jalapeno slices or brisket burnt ends, barbecue sauce and pickled onions.

Spotted Salamander, Columbia

A photograph of an older man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a plaid shirt, carrying a young boy on his shoulders. The boy is wearing a pink t-shirt and has his arms raised. They are in a garden with colorful flowers and a path in the background. The word "EXPECT" is written in large, bold, white letters across the top of the image.

EXPECT

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EXPERIENCE COLUMBIA SC

1 RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

Nationally recognized, this 170-acre oasis is home to over 3,000 animals, a State Botanical Garden and a kids' splash pad at Waterfall Junction.

Contact: 803-779-8717
Riverbanks.org

2 HISTORIC COLUMBIA

The preserved house museums, with more than 6,500 housed artifacts, honor SC's rich history and are available for self-declared historians to view and admire daily.

Contact: 803-252-7742
HistoricColumbia.org

3 COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

On Main Street, the impressive Columbia Museum of Art houses one of the Southeast's largest international permanent collections, plus traveling shows and exhibitions.

Contact: 803-799-2810
ColumbiaMuseum.org

4 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

The most comprehensive museum in the state, and the largest in the Southeast, this sprawling attraction houses four floors of permanent and changing exhibits.

Contact: 803-898-4921
SCMuseum.org

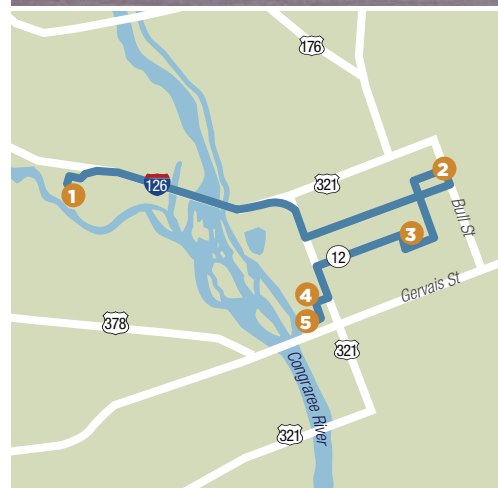
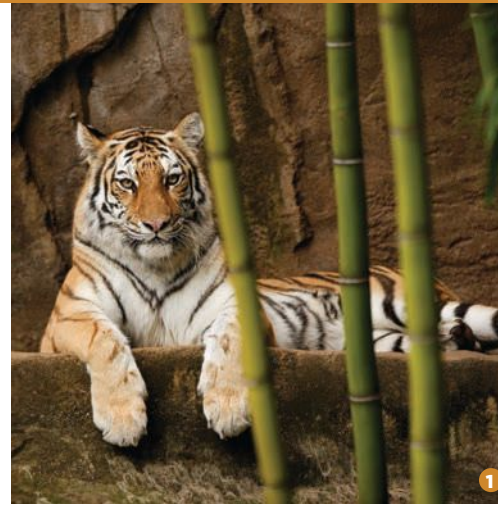
5 EDVENTURE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

As the South's largest children's museum, this interactive, educational institution boasts hands-on art and science experiences, 300 exhibits and "EDDIE," the world's largest child.

Contact: 803-779-3100
EdVenture.org

MORE INFORMATION

Experience Columbia SC
803-545-0000
ExperienceColumbiaSC.com



PALMETTO PLATES

South Carolina Road Trip Bingo

South Carolina's license plates are more than just tags; they're mini history lessons on wheels. From the bold 250th Anniversary Revolutionary War plate to nods to legendary sports heroes and iconic state milestones, each one has a story to tell. See how many you can spot on your next road trip.

1. 250th Year Anniversary Revolutionary War
2. Morris Island Lighthouse
3. Penn Center
4. University of South Carolina
5. Friends of Hunting Island State Park
6. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
7. First in Golf
8. Riverbanks Zoo & Garden
9. Wildlife Painted Bunting
10. Driven by the Arts
11. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
12. Protect Wild Dolphins Alliance
13. H.L. Hunley
14. Darlington Raceway
15. Our Farms Our Future
16. Antique Auto
17. Gone Fishing
18. Shag State Dance
19. Heritage Classic Foundation
20. Endangered Species
21. Keep it Beautiful
22. Play Tennis!
23. Clemson University
24. Boykin Spaniel Foundation



Get on the same wave at *The Beach*

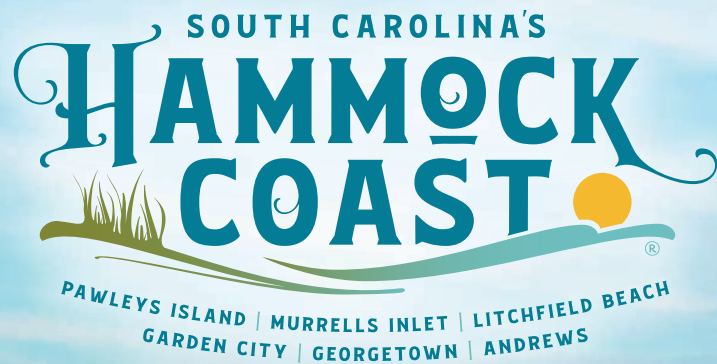
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“Gorgeous beaches, fresh seafood,
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atmosphere.”

Travel+Leisure Magazine



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USA Today/10 Best has named three beaches on the Hammock Coast the **BEST IN SOUTH CAROLINA** ... Pawleys Island (No. 1), Litchfield Beach (No. 3) and Huntington Beach State Park (No. 4).

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