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## Beaufort Destination Overview

**Founded: 1711**

**40 miles north of Savannah**

**2nd oldest city in SC**

**17,000 active military members and families live in Beaufort.**

**Annual Visitors: 1 million**

**70 miles south of Charleston**

**70 sites on the National Register of Historic Places**

- Today, Beaufort generates approximately one million visitors annually, and is regarded as one of the most diverse of any community of its size due to its historic character and prominent architecture.
- Beaufort is located on Port Royal Island and its surrounding area within the South Carolina Lowcountry represents a beachfront community situated along the Atlantic Ocean.
- Beaufort is home to one of the largest population of Gullahs, a culture known for preserving its African linguistic and cultural heritage more than any other AfricanAmerican community within the United States.
- The Marine Corps Recruit Depot for the Eastern Seaboard can also be found in Beaufort, in addition to the Marine Corps Air Station and Naval Hospital. Each year, the Recruit Depot transforms more than 20,000 recruits into Marines.
- Beaufort is home to the only kazoo factory still operation within the United States – The Kazoobie Kazoo Factory. In 2017, former President Barack Obama proclaimed Beaufort as the site of the newly-created Reconstruciton Era National Monument.
- Hunting Island State Park, South Carolina’s most-visited state park, is home to the state’s only publicly accessible lighthouse.
- Beaufort was the backdrop to many iconic Hollywood movies, including The Big Chill, The Great Santini, Forces of Nature and Forest Gump.

