

VISIT
BEAUFORT

Port Royal  Sea Islands

*Official Visitor and
Relocation Guide*

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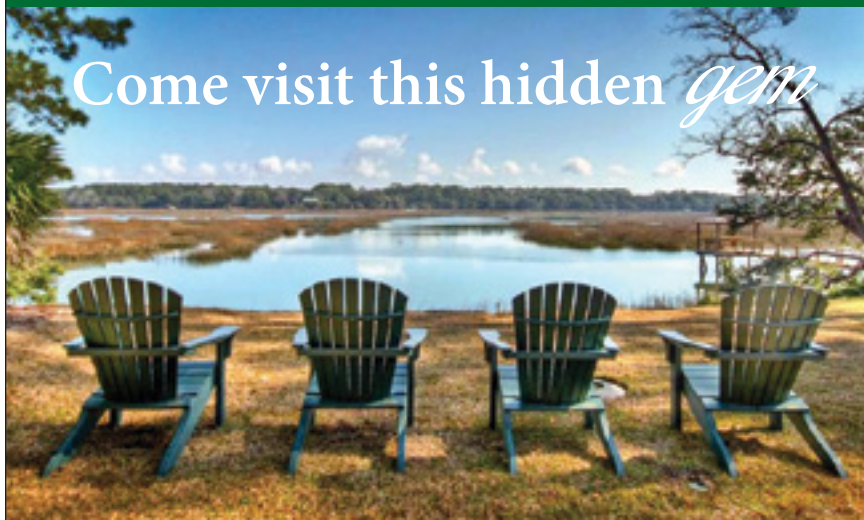
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Islands
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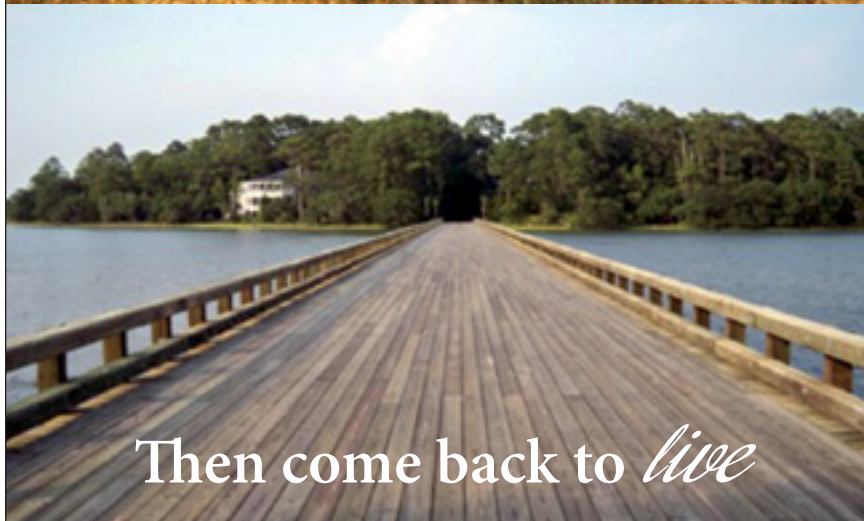


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Just outside the city,
chill air ebbs into sun-warmed waterways.

Historic streets and unspoiled beaches
unfold like treasure maps.

Breathe in salt air. Breathe out, transformed.

Historic Southern homes welcome you in.
Live oaks whisper ancient secrets.

Watercolor sunset, meet waterfront.

Hit reset.

Welcome to life with the tides.

VISIT
BEAUFORT
PORT ROYAL  SEA ISLANDS

inner coastal



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WELCOME TO *Beaufort*

PORT ROYAL & THE SEA ISLANDS

Since the first visitors set foot on our captivating coastline in 1514, the Lowcountry has had a uniquely transformative effect. Maybe it's something in the magnetic pull of the tide, the sun-warmed salt air or jasmine-filled gardens. A slower, sweeter pace where moss-draped live oaks dance with the breeze and Southern mansions look out over historic streets. Where Gullah descendants weave artwork from sweetgrass as fishing boats dot a glimmering harbor and evening brings a spectacular watercolor sunset.

Come discover for yourself why *Southern Living* named Beaufort "The South's Best Small Town," or why *Garden & Gun* calls us a "Southern Dream Town." *Come find your inner coastal.*

ort

FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Visitor/Guests,

Welcome to Beaufort, South Carolina – a place where Southern charm meets coastal beauty and rich history blends seamlessly with vibrant culture.

We are delighted that you have chosen to visit our charming town, nestled along the banks of the serene Beaufort River and surrounded by the scenic beauty of the Lowcountry.

As you explore our picturesque streets, you will quickly see why Beaufort is known for its architecture, moss-draped oak trees, and warm hospitality. From the beautifully preserved historic homes to the spacious Waterfront Park, every corner of our town tells a story. Stroll through the historic downtown, enjoy a leisurely walk along the waterfront, or take in breathtaking views from one of our scenic spots.

Beaufort is a community that celebrates its heritage while embracing the future. We are proud of our diverse arts scene, renowned culinary offerings, and unique shops. Whether you are here for a weekend getaway, a family vacation, or just passing through, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

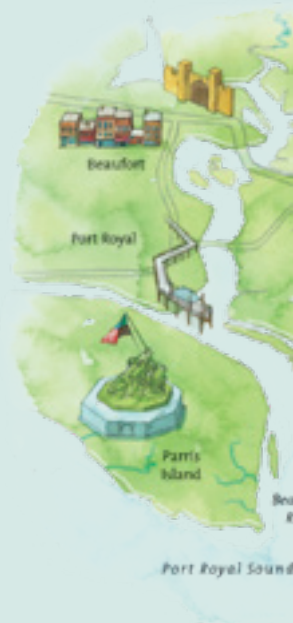
Our community is also a gateway to adventure. From kayaking through our pristine waterways and exploring the natural beauty of nearby Hunting Island to discovering the rich Gullah culture, Beaufort offers experiences as diverse as they are unforgettable.

On behalf of our community, I extend my warmest welcome and invite you to experience all that Beaufort has to offer. We hope that your time here is filled with wonderful memories and that you leave with a piece of Beaufort in your heart.

Enjoy your trip and come back soon!
Sincerely,

Philip Cromer
Mayor of Beaufort

Top 20 things to do in Beaufort



- 1 Stop by the restored Arsenal and Visitors Center for local tours and tips
- 2 Enjoy Hunting Island State Park's beach and nature center
- 3 Shop & Dine in Beaufort's beautiful downtown waterfront
- 4 Take a carriage tour around 'The Point' and Historic District
- 5 Explore the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot and museum
- 6 Visit the Museum at Historic Penn Center on St. Helena
- 7 Walk the boardwalk at the Sands Beach in Port Royal
- 8 Take a boat tour to see dolphins in the river & birds in the marsh
- 9 Fly-fish rich tidal flats for trophy redfish
- 10 Pay respects to fallen Americans at the Beaufort National Cemetery
- 11 Stroll or bike along the Spanish Moss Trail
- 12 Discover the ruins of the Old Sheldon Church, ca. 1753
- 13 Visit the shops & restaurants at the Old Village Port Royal
- 14 Stroll historic Beaufort or rent a bike to see the sights
- 15 Stop by the Pat Conroy Literary Center
- 16 Enjoy the work of local artists in Beaufort's many galleries
- 17 Visit various sites from some of your favorite movies
- 18 Play a round of golf at one of the area's many beautiful courses
- 19 Get married . . . in a storybook destination designed for weddings
- 20 Kayak or paddleboard in the beautiful rivers, marshes & creeks



About the Area

Rich in history, Southern charm and modern amenities, Beaufort County encompasses hundreds of miles of sun-warmed coastline and more than 200 sea islands, most of which remain wondrously pristine.

Located between Savannah and Charleston on South Carolina's Atlantic Coast, the area is blissfully easy to access and explore. While Beaufort proper remains the area's queen belle, with Historic mansions, sail-dotted bays and fashionable boutiques, the town's outlying areas each offer a distinctive experience.

BEAUFORT

ENJOY: Remember those idyllic towns of yore, where locals smiled at newcomers, shady lanes meandered through walkable neighborhoods and the highlight of the day involved a stroll along the riverfront? Well, Beaufort has always been that way—and it's never changed.

EXPLORE: Downtown Beaufort entices with small town charm. One-of-a-kind shops and galleries line historic Bay Street. Upscale and casual restaurants offer menus built around local cuisine and opportunities for alfresco dining. Independent bookstores stocked with classics, many by locals, make it easy to lose an hour—or an afternoon.

EXPERIENCE: Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park winds along the glistening Beaufort River, rewarding strollers with a vista of marsh islands and intersecting waterways. Horse-drawn carriages transport riders through yesteryear in “The Point,” an historic neighborhood where elegant mansions stand beneath moss-strewn oaks.



Downtown Beaufort



Joseph Johnson House, aka “The Castle,” c. 1859

PORT ROYAL

ENJOY: South of Beaufort, the town of Port Royal lures with fresh seafood and preserved natural beauty.

EXPLORE: Port Royal prides itself on gifts from the sea, and encourages visitors to see and taste the treasures. For a catch-of-the-day meal, dine while overlooking the Port Royal Sound at Fish Camp Restaurant or Shelling Ale Works. Get to know the feathered locals along the trails of the freshwater wetland bird sanctuary, or climb to the top of the observation tower at the boardwalk and watch dolphins frolic in Battery Creek. Visit Cypress Wetlands to get up-close with the area's native plants and wildlife right in the heart of downtown. Soak up the sights on the trails, boardwalk and pier.

EXPERIENCE: The area's natural splendor complements a manmade beauty in Union Church. Built in 1878, the church features the original windows, bell tower and bronze bell.

PARRIS ISLAND

ENJOY: To understand the military influence on this area, one needs to look no further than Parris Island.

EXPLORE: The Marine Corps Recruit Depot graduates nearly 20,000 Marine Corps recruits annually. Family members—and interested visitors—can watch recruits officially become Marines by attending one of the weekly graduation ceremonies. At the 10,000-square-foot Parris Island Museum, thousands of artifacts tell the story of the Marines' history and traditions.

EXPERIENCE: Play a round of golf at Parris Island's Legends Golf Course, ranked among the world's top 10 military courses. Fringed by pines and salt marshes, it challenges Marines and civilians alike. Reservations required.



Tour the Town of Beaufort

No matter your interest or mode of transportation, this area beckons you to get out and explore. Take a golf cart, horse and buggy, or van tour around “The Point” and the Beaufort National Historic District as expert guides tell stories about the homes, local history, even celebrity gossip. If you’d rather see the sights on your own two feet, there are several walking tours available. Local historians lead tours that get up-close with historic homes. If pedaling is more your speed, rent a bike from Lowcountry Bicycles, Emma’s Earth Shop, or City Java to explore at your own pace. For a different perspective, climb aboard a boat tour. For daily tour information call the Beaufort Visitors Center at 843-525-8500.



HUNTING ISLAND

ENJOY: With its exotic maritime forest of palmettos and pines, the utterly unspoiled atmosphere of Hunting Island State Park feels like a place from another time. And, with campsites and a rental cabin just steps from the beach, it’s the perfect weekend—or week-long—getaway.

EXPLORE: The 5,000-acre park features 8 miles of well-maintained trails. The family and Fido – pets are welcome year-round – can frolic on 5 miles of pristine beach. Loll by the lagoon or cast a line from the fishing pier. At the Nature Center, exhibits and daily programs interpret area flora and fauna.

EXPERIENCE: Take a virtual tour of the circa-1859 Hunting Island Lighthouse, currently under repair, at the Visitors Center.



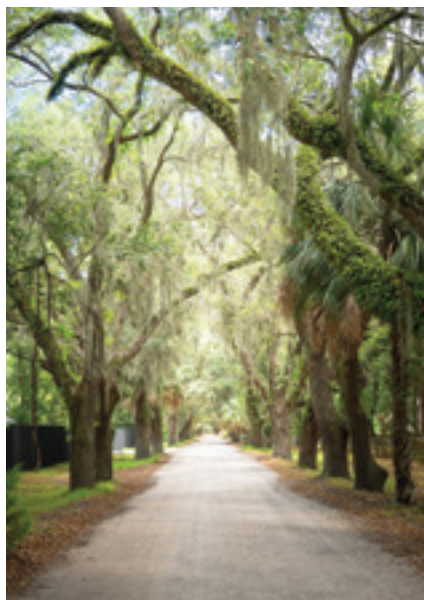


LADY'S ISLAND

ENJOY: Located just across the bridge from downtown Beaufort, Lady's Island presents more fun both on land and at sea.

EXPLORE: Golfers rave about the variety of golf courses. Boaters set sail for Lady's Island Marina, an ideal home base for navigating the area's waterways.

EXPERIENCE: Chow down on crab legs, clams and shrimp at any of several seafood shanties, including the seriously casual Dockside Waterfront Restaurant, a favorite among locals and visitors alike.



ST. HELENA ISLAND

ENJOY: The heart of the Gullah community beats strongest on St. Helena Island.

EXPLORE: Homespun restaurants serve authentic Gullah fare rich with local seafood and produce. Gullah descendants carry on the African culture, most noticeably with their signature, intricately woven sweetgrass baskets.

EXPERIENCE: Penn Center served as the country's first school for freed slaves and later played a role in the Civil Rights movement; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reportedly began his "I Have a Dream" speech at the center. Today, this oak-shaded compound of wooden cabins and community buildings offers educational and cultural programs related to the history of the Sea Islands and has become a part of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park.



HARBOR ISLAND

ENJOY: Good times rule on this private, gated island dotted with rental homes and 2.5 miles of unspoiled beach.

EXPLORE: Locals and vacationers soak up live music and happy hour at Johnson Creek Tavern. More fun unfolds at Barefoot Bubba's, a collection of vibrantly painted shacks overflowing with funky, beach-themed souvenirs. Enjoy an ice cream cone and chill to some Jimmy Buffet.

EXPERIENCE: Beach house decks provide the perfect vantage point for nature watching, whether it's vibrant sunsets sinking behind sea-oats-studded sand dunes or terns, pelicans, egrets and herons sashaying in the breeze.

FRIPP ISLAND

ENJOY: Literally at the end of the road, Fripp Island is the most seaward of South Carolina's barrier islands and is a private, gated community.

EXPLORE: Fripp provides 3 miles of Atlantic beach, plus a full-service marina for exploring the surrounding marshes. Along with exclusive accommodations—oceanfront homes to fairway villas—Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort offers amenities such as tennis, pools, dining, and moped or bike rentals. Golfers also love the island's two renowned courses, both just steps from the ocean.

EXPERIENCE: A lovely, gated, beach front and golf community. For reservations contact Fripp Island Golf and Beach Resort.





Arrive a visitor.
Leave a local.



Tucked inside the beautifully restored, more than 200-year-old Arsenal, the Beaufort Visitor Center serves as more than a vibrant introduction to our area's rich history—it offers a warm welcome from knowledgeable guides eager to help plan your perfect visit.

VISIT
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inner coastal



ROBERT SMALLS

"MY RACE NEEDS NO SPECIAL DEFENSE.
FOR THE PAST HISTORY OF THE
THIS COUNTRY PROVES THEM TO BE
THE EQUAL OF ANY PEOPLE ANYWHERE.
ALL THEY NEED IS AN EQUAL CHANCE
IN THE BATTLE OF LIFE."

ROBERT SMALLS

NOV. 1, 1839

450 Years of History





The Beaufort History Museum

The Beaufort History Museum traces its roots to 1939, when its constitution was approved at a meeting of the original board of trustees. The state of South Carolina then chartered the museum as a nonprofit organization, formed “to increase and diffuse knowledge by the maintenance of a general museum and library of art, science, history and industry; the preservation and protection of objects and places of artistic, historic or scientific interest; and by furnishing instruction and recreation.”

The museum has been open to the public for most of the time since and is housed in The Arsenal, 713 Craven Street.

Birtherd 450 years ago, when French explorer Jean Ribaut sailed into Port Royal sound, the second-deepest natural harbor on the East Coast. Beaufort history still pulses through legend – through times of prosperity, grandeur, turmoil—and rebirth.

Spanish, French and British explorers struggled to colonize the isolated seaside province dotted with American Indian tribes. Spain first ventured into area waters in 1514, but it was Ribaut who claimed the Port Royal Harbor and

established the short-lived settlement of Charlesfort, now known as Parris Island. The Spaniards returned in 1566, building Fort San Felipe and the Santa Elena settlement on Parris Island. Their dominion endured until 1587, when the British drove them out of the region.

By 1711, when the English formally chartered Beaufort, the area had evolved into a shipbuilding hub, but growth was tempered by the constant threat of American Indian hostilities and foreign invasion. As protection, the British constructed Fort Frederick in 1735.

In 1712, the Parish Church of St. Helena was established at 505 Church St. Thomas Heyward Jr. (1746-1809), a signer of the Declaration of Independence, served as a parishioner during the Revolutionary War Era. In the late 1700s, Beaufort and its bordering sea islands flourished as a center for indigo, cotton and rice. Wealthy plantation owners built breathtaking mansions in downtown Beaufort, many of which still stand in the Historic District and “The Point,” the area’s most historic residential enclave.

Beaufort was one of the first communities captured by the Union when the Civil War erupted in 1861. Union soldiers established a headquarters in the federal-style John Mark Verdier House. Verdier, a successful merchant and plantation owner, had built his mansion in 1804, with wealth generated from trading

indigo and farming 1,000 acres of sea island cotton.

The house remained under Union control until Verdier's daughter-in-law, Caroline, reacquired it at a tax sale at the war's conclusion. Today, docents give tours of the restored property. Beaufort National Cemetery was established two years after the war began. One of six national cemeteries built in 1863 for Union soldiers and sailors, the 33-acre site presents an unusual layout for its time: Five avenues form the spokes of a half circle, all of which sit inside a rectangular boundary. More than 14,000 soldiers have been laid to rest here, including 199 Confederate soldiers. It is one of a handful of national cemeteries that buried Confederate soldiers. Following the Civil War, Beaufort prospered from phosphate mining before a devastating hurricane in 1907 and a fire in 1913 brought economic stagnation. The town's recovery in the latter half of the 20th century was fueled by downtown revitalization and development, as well as a large military investment: The U.S.

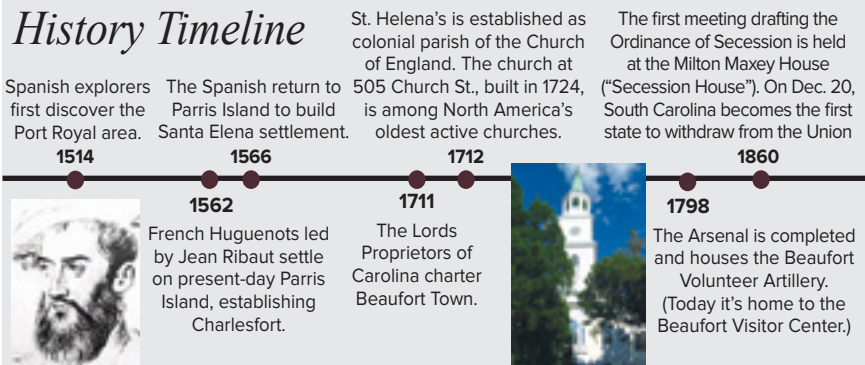
Must Do: History

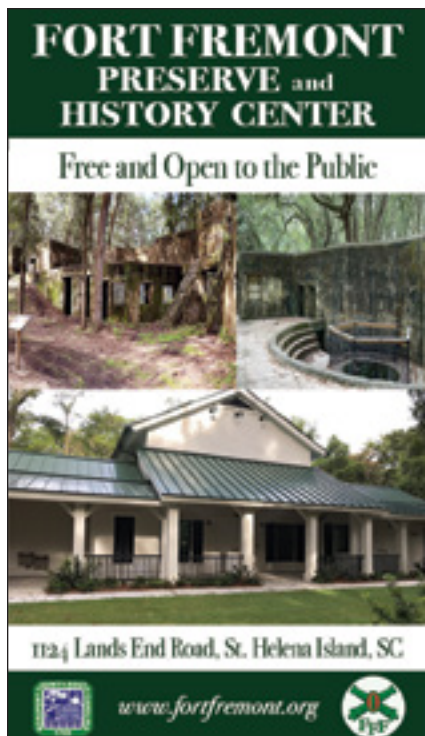
- ◆ Visit the Beaufort Arsenal, home to the Beaufort Visitor Center and the Beaufort History Museum.
- ◆ Visit Penn Center to explore the Gullah culture.
- ◆ Tour the John Mark Verdier House, a historical home open to the public.
- ◆ See USMC and local military exhibits at Parris Island Museum.
- ◆ Pay respects to American soldiers at the Beaufort National Cemetery.
- ◆ Learn about the Ordinance of Secession, drafted at the Milton Maxcy House (Secession House).
- ◆ Explore the Old Sheldon Church ruins.
- ◆ Visit the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park
- ◆ Tour the Chapel of Ease ruins (circa 1740) on St. Helena Island.
- ◆ Walk through The Point, a neighborhood of historic Southern mansions.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Beaufort Naval Hospital.

Another military landmark, Fort Fremont on St. Helena Island, was built to defend the U.S. Naval Station-Beaufort (a major dry dock and coaling station) during the Spanish-American War. The U.S. Army

History Timeline





Coast Artillery Corps manned it from 1899 through 1911, when the Navy Yard moved to Charleston. Fort Fremont's 170 acres had state-of-the-art facilities, including telephones, auto-telegraph (yesterday's fax), electricity and advanced artillery. Little of Fort Fremont remains, except two batteries and a hospital building, but visitors are encouraged to

walk the waterfront grounds. Other vestiges of Beaufort's beginnings are fun to experience as well. In The Point, the historic residential quarter in downtown Beaufort, stately Southern mansions retain the city's Southern charm and grace. Visitors can tour The Point by car, van, golf cart, foot or horse-drawn carriage.

The First African Baptist Church is founded. It still stands today.



Penn School founded on St. Helena Island. Here in 1963, Dr. MLK Jr. begins "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Emancipation Proclamation, recently signed by President Lincoln, is read at Beaufort's Naval Hospital.



Legislature creates Beaufort campus of the University of South Carolina. Receives four-year status in 2002.

1861

In November, the Battle of Port Royal establishes Union occupation of the area.

1862

Robert Smalls, an enslaved crewmember on the Confederate ship The Planter, seizes the ship in Charleston Harbor and gains his freedom.

1863

1864

Union forces occupy Beaufort. The town escapes destruction during General Sherman's "March to the Sea."

1959

1915

Marine barracks on Parris Island begin full recruit training operations.

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

In 2019, Beaufort became the site of the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, having first been named a national monument by President Barack Obama. During the Reconstruction era, from 1861-1900, the United States grappled with the question of how to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, economic, and labor systems. The people, places, and events in Beaufort's history reflect on the most important issues of this tumultuous and transformative period.

Currently, there are several sites within the National Park. They include:

- ◆ Old Beaufort Firehouse (Welcome Center), 706 Craven St.
- ◆ Penn Center National Landmark, 16 Penn Center Circle, St. Helena Island
- ◆ Site of Camp Saxton, 601 Old Fort Rd., Port Royal
- ◆ Brick Baptist Church, 85 Martin Luther King Drive, St. Helena Island

For more information visit www.nps.gov or call 843-962-0039.



Old Beaufort Firehouse
706 Craven Street



The first annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration pays tribute to the Gullah people.

A 20-year-long translation of New Testament into Gullah, completed and unveiled on St. Helena Island.

Beaufort celebrates tricentennial.

Anniversaries: 450th of Port Royal settlement; 150th of Penn Center; 300th of St. Helena Church.

1982

2005

2011

2012 2021

1960

The Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is designated after being commissioned Naval Air Station Beaufort in 1943.

1973

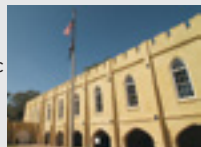
Downtown Beaufort is declared a National Historic Landmark District.

2000

The U.S. Census Bureau shows Beaufort County's population as the fastest-growing in the state.

2010

The Visitor Center moves to the historic Arsenal in the National Register Historic District.





Walk the Map Enjoy these historic sites while strolling the streets on a leisurely, shaded walk — all located within a 3-mile radius. For a guided walking tour of the area, stop by the Visitor Center (icon #1), to make your reservations.

Historic Homes & Attractions

-  The Beaufort Arsenal: (c. 1798, rebuilt 1852) Housed Volunteer Artillery through WWII. Beaufort Visitor Center and Beaufort History Museum
- 2** Lewis Reeve Sams House: (c. 1852) "Prince of Tides" film site with raised, double porches, T-shape.
- 3** William Waterhouse House: (c. 1907) Built for Waterhouse's wife, featuring spacious piazzas.
- 4** Thomas Hepworth House: (c. 1750) Beaufort's oldest surviving home provides rare glimpse into Colonial era.
- 5** Joseph Johnson House: (c. 1859) "The Castle" one of "great houses of the South Carolina coast."
- 6** William Fripp House: (c. 1830) "Tidewater" built by planter "Good Billy" Fripp, known for his generosity, and one of the area's wealthiest 19th century planters.
- 7** James Robert Verdier House: (c. 1814) "Marshlands" built by Verdier, pioneer in treatment of yellow fever.
- 8** Edward Means House: (between 1855-1857) Main entrance is on east façade, facing The Green.
- 9** Paul Hamilton House: (c. 1855) "The Oaks" built by grandson of Paul Hamilton, President Madison's Navy Secretary.
- 10** Edgar Fripp House: (c. 1853) "Tidalholm" featured in "The Big Chill" and "The Great Santini."
- 11** Berners Barnwell Sams House: (c. 1852) Includes Beaufort's only remaining slave dependencies, now apartments.
- 12** Elizabeth Hext House: (c. 1805-1825) "RiverView" boasts varied flowered gardens and a large kumquat tree.
- 13** Rev. Thomas Ledbetter House: (c. 1840) Garden setting with magnificent river views from two-story veranda.
- 14** McKee-Smalls House: (c.1834) Purchased by McKees' former slave, Union hero and politician Robert Smalls, who was born in this house.
- 15** William Wigg Barnwell House: (c. 1816) Moved to current location in 1963 and restored by Jim Williams of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."
- 16** First African Baptist Church: (c. 1865) Built by the Baptist Church of Beaufort for its African American members and in continuous use since the 1860s.
- 17** Beth Israel Synagogue: (c. 1908) Built by Beaufort's large Jewish community, remains an active congregation.
- 18** William Sidney Smith House: (c. 1897) Originally a boarding house, renovated in 1980s. Now Beaufort Inn.
- 19** John Mark Verdier House: (c. 1804) Preserved after condemnation in 1942. Flagship of Historic Beaufort Foundation.
- 20** Capt. Francis Saitus Store (c. 1796). Ship's store in 18th century, later restaurant & John Cross Tavern.
- 21** George Parsons Elliott House: (c. 1844) Beaufort-style mansion converted to office space.
- 22** Lucius Cuthbert House: (c. 1820) The Cuthberts, owned the property prior to the Civil War, moved to Aiken, SC, during Beaufort's occupation and never returned. Now a B&B
- 23** Tabernade Baptist Church: (c. 1840) Robert Smalls buried here. Future home of statue to Harriet Tubman.
- 24** Thomas Rhett House: (c. 1820) Excellently proportioned with fine interior. Now Rhett House Inn.
- 25** William Elliott House: (c. 1790) "The Anchorage" built by one of Beaufort's few Secession opponents; remodeled in 1910. Now a B&B
- 26** William Fickling House: (c. 1820s) Schoolmaster's home now Rectory of Parish Church of St. Helena.
- 27** Milton Maxey House: (c. 1813) Site of first meeting on Secession in South Carolina ("Secession House")
- 28** John A. Cuthbert House: (c. 1810) Victorian elements added in late 19th century. Now Cuthbert House Inn.
- 29** Thomas Fuller House: (c. 1805) "Tabby Manse" used as boarding house for more than 100 years.
- 30** Charles Edward Leverett House: (c. 1815; moved 1850) Leverett one of few who reclaimed home after Civil War.
- 31** John Joyner Smith House: (c. 1813, remodeled c. 1850) Used by Union commander General Stevens during Civil War. Has faux entrance is on the south end.
- 32** Edward Barnwell House: (c. 1815) Built by great-grandson of Indian fighter "Tuscarora Jack" Barnwell.
- 33** Keyserling Home: (c. 1917) "The Teacherage" was a boarding house until 1960s.
- 34** Emil Lengnick House: (c. 1900) Queen Anne Vernacular Style, with no substantial exterior changes.
- 35** First Presbyterian Church: (c. 1929) Temple-like façade added in 1983.
- 36** The Parish Church Of St. Helena: (c. 1724) Parish established in 1712. Some of state's earliest families are in the cemetery.
- 37** Baptist Church of Beaufort: (c. 1844) Congregation dates to 18th century. Ceiling ornamentation believed work of slave.
- 38** Carteret Street Methodist Church: (c. 1922) Methodism in Beaufort traced to 1737 when John Wesley visited.
- 39** St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church: (c. 1846) Built by Irish immigrant. Congregation moved to Lady's Island in 1990s.
- 40** Historic Firehouse & City Meat Market: (c. 1911) Present location of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park.
- 41** Pat Conroy Literary Center: Inspired by the life and work of writer and mentor Pat Conroy

THE *Legends* PARRIS ISLAND, SC



Not your typical gated community...

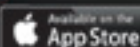
Our gates are guarded by United States Marines, but this Top 10 rated military golf course is open to the public! With unhindered views of South Carolina's beautiful marshes and rivers, it's easy to see why The Legends was ranked #66 in GolfLinks "Top 100 US Golf Courses". Play The Legends and discover service provided with military precision and Lowcountry hospitality.

Download
our new app!
Legends at Parris Island



MORE GOLF. LESS WORK.

Scan Me



Booking your next tee time
just got a whole lot easier.

A Legacy of Service



Marine recruits come to Beaufort to be trained, tested and transformed into the world's fiercest fighting force. Visitors can experience the area's military ties on less rigorous terms.

One of the world's most-visited military facilities, Parris Island is home to the legendary Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Parris Island Museum. Every year, nearly 20,000 United States Marine Corps recruits (all male and female recruits east of the Mississippi River) descend on Parris Island to prepare for service. There are approximately 35 recruit graduation ceremonies a year, generally on Friday, and they are open to the public. For more information visit: mcrdpi.marines.mil.

At the Parris Island Museum, the Marine Corps' first Command Museum, more than 10,000 square feet of exhibits honor the history and

“
A legacy of service
”

tradition of the Marine Corps. The museum also highlights the region's history, from its American Indian roots to its discovery by Europeans 450 years ago to the founding of the Depot.

The Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort boasts Marine F/A-18 and F/A-35 squadrons that create the “sound of freedom” heard overhead.

The Fightertown family consists of nearly 5,000 active duty and civilian employees (more than 8,500 active-duty armed forces members live and work in the Beaufort area). At any given time, squadrons of this established air station are deployed around the globe.

The military family here has recently expanded. MCAS Beaufort is now home to two training squadrons of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the U.S. military's cutting edge, state-of-the-art aircraft.



An F-35 at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort



Every two years, MCAS hosts the Beaufort Air Show, featuring high flying, daredevilish entertainment, including the Blue Angels.

Just 10 miles down the road the Beaufort Naval Hospital occupies 127 acres. One of only a few military facilities recognized as a complete military compound, the

hospital features 53 family housing units, two Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, a Navy Exchange retail store, a Public Works facility, recreational facilities and more. Also on Naval Hospital grounds lies the historic tabby (seashell and mortar) ruins of Fort Frederick, built in 1735 as protection against the Spanish, French and Indians.

At Naval Heritage Park, just outside the gate, a historic marker designates the site of Camp Saxton and details Emancipation Day, which celebrated the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day 1863. Little of the fort remains, but the grounds are open to the public for visitors.

In Uptown Beaufort, pay your respects at Beaufort National Cemetery, established in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. Dedicated to those who have served this country, the cemetery contains the remains of several notable military service members. Among those are 199 Confederate soldiers, as requested by President Lincoln, making it one of a handful of national cemeteries containing Confederate soldiers.



Beaufort National Cemetery

A woman with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a blue cap and a purple tank top, is seen from behind, holding a fishing rod and casting a line into a body of water. The background is a marshy area with green grass and water.

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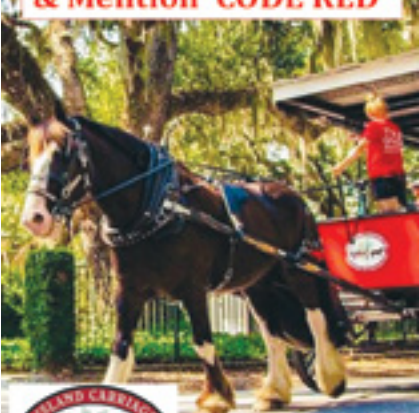



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Beaufort moves at its own pace – and you're invited to do the same while you're here. It's the kind of place that begs to be explored and enjoyed in the most out-of-the-ordinary routes and workouts.

Beaufort's intricate network of waterways that feed through the surrounding islands provides a fisherman's and boater's paradise. Some days tour boats explore the Beaufort River from the Downtown Marina; dolphins frolic alongside the boat as guides

discuss the area's marine life, history and film heritage. Tours also depart the Port Royal Landing Marina with narration on the history of the islands and tides of the river.

Public boat ramps and marinas dot the islands, making it easy to get out on the



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Must Do: Outdoors

- ◆ Walk the boardwalk and climb the tower at Port Royal's Sands Beach.
- ◆ Take a kayak tour of the area's rivers and estuaries.
- ◆ Explore the Cypress Wetlands Trail in Port Royal.
- ◆ Golf at Pleasant Point Golf Course.
- ◆ Climb aboard a boat tour to see dolphins in the river and birds in the marshlands.
- ◆ Go deep-sea fishing or catch the big one on the rivers with a charter company.
- ◆ Head out to Hunting Island State Park to explore the beach, lighthouse, pier and forest trails.
- ◆ Take part in outdoor running, biking and kayaking events.
- ◆ Stroll or take a guided tour through the canopied streets of downtown Beaufort.
- ◆ Walk, run, or rent a bike to ride along the Spanish Moss Trail.

water. All you have to worry about is catching the big one, which may be easier than you think. Redfish, spotted sea trout, Spanish mackerel, black sea bass, southern flounder and more populate the area waters. No boat? No problem. Rent kayaks at area outfitters, join a charter fishing expedition, or try your luck inshore fishing with one of the local outfitters.

Just up the road, the ACE Basin has 350,000 acres of tidal creeks, home to dolphins, alligators, eagles, ospreys and more.

Hunting Island State Park boasts 5,000 acres of maritime forest, complete with a campground, a pier, 5 miles of beach, an 8-mile hiking trail and the 132 foot lighthouse. The park attracts more than 1 million visitors annually.

Beaufort's Best Views

Beaufort and its adjacent islands comprise one gigantic picture postcard. Here are a few notable places that offer some of the area's most spectacular views:

- ◆ *Historic Cuthbert House Inn & Anchorage 1770* feature spacious verandas overlooking boat-dotted Beaufort Bay. (For guests only.)
- ◆ Stroll *Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park* to see the beauty of the Beaufort River.
- ◆ Dine at one of downtown's restaurants, *Panini's Café*, *Luther's*, *Plums Restaurant*, *Saltus River Grill*, or *Q on Bay*.
- ◆ Grab an ice cream from *Southern Sweets Ice Cream*, *Lowcountry Cider Co.*, *Yoyo's Frozen Yogurt*, or *Kilwins* and enjoy it in Waterfront Park
- ◆ The eastern end of Bay Street provides a great view of the swing bridge connecting downtown Beaufort and Lady's Island.
- ◆ In historic Port Royal, go to the docks around dusk and watch the sun sink behind Fish Camp Restaurant or Shelling Ale Works.
- ◆ For an unparalleled view, ascend the tower at The Sands in Port Royal. You'll see a spectacular expanse of marshes, islands, creeks, and ocean.

Port Royal's Cypress Wetlands Park dazzles, with boardwalks and pathways, an observation deck and awesome views. Visit at low tide to witness rarely seen creatures, like white-shelled periwinkle snails and mud hens. Birders flock to the area to see dazzling displays from species like Snowy Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, and Painted Buntings.

Even in downtown Beaufort, nature holds dominion. "The Green," an undeveloped one-acre block in the heart of "The Point" near the Beaufort River, remains open park space.

The Port Royal Sound Foundation's Maritime Center on Lemon Island features birding walks, eco-boat expeditions, and more.

The Beaufort County Open Land Trust purchases unspoiled real estate to protect our precious waterfront views, and now preserves more than 23,000 acres.

Fishing in Beaufort

Twenty-five percent of the United States' east coast marshland water is right here in Beaufort County, making it a fisherman's paradise. Located halfway between Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA, and only a stone's throw from Hilton Head Island, Beaufort offers sight fishing at its finest. The flats of the Lowcountry teem with fly casting and light tackle opportunities.



Sight casting . . . tailing reds . . . chasing giant cobia . . . you name it, you can do it. Cast into a school of jacks, trout, ladyfish, or Spanish mackerel. The fish are here! With hundreds of square miles of tide water and grassy marshes to explore, the possibilities are endless.



SPANISH MOSS TRAIL

The Lowcountry's Rails to Trail

The Spanish Moss Trail is a developing rails-to-trail greenway located in Beaufort County, South Carolina that has become a "Must-Experience" outdoor activity for more than 100,000 residents and visitors each year. Today, the Trail is a 10 mile, 12-foot wide, paved path dedicated to those who walk, run, bike, or fish – offering spectacular Lowcountry water and marsh vistas, coastal wildlife viewing, and historic points of interest as it meanders through Spanish moss-draped neighborhoods and beautiful wetlands.



Friends of the SPANISH MOSS TRAIL

The Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Northern Beaufort County, SC by advocating for the development, enhancement & maintenance of the Spanish Moss Trail.



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Taste the Lowcountry



Take a bite of Lowcountry cuisine and you'll get a full taste of the region's traditions, history and way of life.

South Carolina's coastal fare is steeped in a combination of English, French, African and West Indian cuisine. And fresh, local produce (corn and squash) and seafood (crab, shrimp, oysters and fish) provide delicious bases for this Southern comfort food.

Like the region itself, many Lowcountry dishes date back hundreds of years. Consider, for example, the ancient cuisine of the Gullah, whose African ancestors were brought to the area as slaves. Through the centuries, Gullah people have proudly preserved a culture that includes a distinctive cooking style that's heavy on grilling,

“ *Take a bite of Beaufort* ”

roasting and stewing. And, of course, seafood is key.

Lowcountry Produce Market and Cafe occupies Beaufort's

former City Hall. The specialty food retailer whips up Southern staples, such as relishes, preserves, gumbos and more, using all-natural ingredients. For delicious, locally sourced dishes in an elegant atmosphere, check out the Ribaut Social Club in the historic Anchorage 1770 inn.

If you have a desire to cook with fresh produce, check out Beaufort's bounty of local markets and produce stands like The Port Royal Farmers Market in Naval Heritage Park, which has heirloom tomatoes, blueberries, eggplant, organic eggs, homemade soups, and live entertainment. Open Saturday mornings year-round.



Port Royal Farmers Market

If you're on the road, pull over at the roadside stand of Barefoot Farms or Dempsey Farms on St. Helena Island for fresh fruits and vegetables. They supply several local restaurants with produce (Breakwater Restaurant & Bar, Plums Restaurant, Saltus River Grill, and The Old Bull Tavern to name a few).

A few of the other notable restaurants in downtown Beaufort are Q on Bay for barbecue, Hearth for wood fired pizza, Wren for fine cuisine, Lost Locals for tacos, Blackstone's for tasty breakfast and lunch, and Luther's for great burgers and bar food.

The Foolish Frog on St. Helena Island, Bricks on Boundary in uptown Beaufort and Polanco Modern Mex Kitchen at Habersham Marketplace also take advantage of local meats and produce.



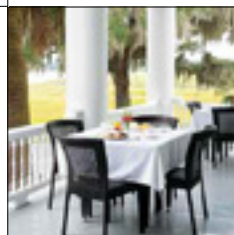
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Lowcountry Boil *or* Frogmore Stew

This famous, local seafood dish combines shrimp, sausage, corn, onions and potatoes that works great for outdoor events, and feeding a crowd of hungry folks. When cooking is finished, Lowcountry Boil can be served on spread out newspapers to make clean up easier. Just remember, the larger the crowd, the larger the pot.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup shrimp boil seasoning
(Old Bay or Zatarain's)
4 lbs. medium red potatoes
2-3 medium sweet onions, sliced
(Vidalia or similar)
2 1/2 lbs. smoked kielbasa or hot links, cut in chunks
8 ears of corn cut in half
4 lbs. medium deveined shrimp (unpeeled)
Cocktail sauce (optional)



Add seasoning to a large pot with plenty of water and bring to a rolling boil. Add potatoes return to a boil and cook for 5 minutes. Add the sausage and onions return to a boil and cook for 15 minutes. Add the corn return to a boil and cook for 10 minutes. Add shrimp return to a boil and cook for 3 minutes. Be careful not to overcook. Drain. Serves many.



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After your fresh-food fix, it's time for dessert. Many local restaurants have homemade sweet treats on the menu. If ice cream is on your mind then check out Kilwin's, Southern Sweets or Yoyo's. If you have a taste for pastries, Magnolia Bakery on Carteret St. and Herban Market & Café on Bay Street are the icing on the cake. Throw a blanket along the riverbank and enjoy your divine dessert as the sun sets.



The Vintage Oyster

Here in the Lowcountry oysters are part of our collective DNA, the literal “something in the water” that helps define us as a culture. The first chill of fall signals a season of backyard oyster roasts - a centuries old tradition. In fact, the Sea Islands took root on ancient oyster rakes. Archaeological research indicates pre-tribal peoples harvested oysters thousands of years before Europeans set foot on the continent.

Oystering was a booming industry here for more than a century until over-harvesting took its toll. Now, thanks to sustainable fisheries like Frank Roberts' *Lady's Island Oysters*, Beaufort raised oysters are among the most sought after on the planet. Like wine, it's all about the terroir – the geology, terrain and micro-environments in the growing zone. Our ocean-fed rivers, creeks and marshes coupled with our massive tides make this one of the best places on Earth to grow oysters. Or as Frank would put it, Beaufort is to oystering what the Napa valley is to wine making.



Frank Roberts' oysters



Sweet Tea



Heirloom Tomato Pie

9" deep dish pie crust, bought or made

1 egg, whisked

About 5 heirloom or Roma tomatoes,
cored and sliced 1/4" thick

1 Tbsp. plus 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1/2 lb. bacon, cooked and chopped

3-4 green onions, thinly sliced

1/2 cup fresh basil, chopped

2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

2 cups shredded mozzarella, gruyere,
sharp cheddar, or a mix

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Coat the inside of crust with egg wash and pre-bake for 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, core and slice tomatoes, place them on paper towels and sprinkle with salt. Cover with more towels and let sit for 10 minutes. This draws out some of the moisture.

3. Cook, drain, and chop bacon. Set aside. Mix green onions, basil, oregano, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper. Set aside.
4. Mix the cheese with the mayo in a bowl
5. Remove the pie crust from the oven layer bottom with a 1/3 of the tomatoes, give them an egg wash and sprinkle with pepper. Top tomatoes with a 1/3 of the bacon, a 1/3 of the green onion mixture and top with a 1/3 of the cheese mixture. Repeat two more times. Finish the third layer with cheese.
5. Lower the oven temp to 350°F and bake for 30 mins. until the cheese on top is slightly golden. Let stand for 10 minutes then serve.





Oyster Cay



Beaufort River Glass



Downtown Beaufort shopping district



Shopping

In Beaufort, shopping is an enchanting treasure hunt. The memories made are as meaningful as the keepsakes themselves. Here, the takeaway is more than just a souvenir. You also take home a piece of culture, a taste of the good life – maybe even a prized relic from the past. With quaint boutiques, bookshops, brand-new stores and more, you can shop all day while taking in the designer views.

Ready-made for strolling, Beaufort's historic downtown provides a contemporary shopping experience in an atmosphere of yesteryear. Bay Street, which parallels the riverfront, beats as the heart of the downtown district, where dozens of locally owned boutiques occupy renovated 19th

century storefronts. From there, side streets, arcades and alleyways promise a treasure chest of unique shopping opportunities.

Experience one of Beaufort's most vibrant galleries with one-of-a-kind gifts, handmade glass items, and eco-friendly, functional art at Beaufort River Glass. Cook on Bay can help you stock your kitchen with ingenious gadgets and specialty foods.

Works by local and regional artists fill galleries like Atelier Off Bay, which showcases 14 artists from the Southeast. The Beaufort Art Association features a different artist every six weeks. I Pinckney Simons Gallery showcases well known regional artists, and Thibault Gallery and

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Rhett Gallery feature local arts and crafts.

For apparel and accessories, there's something for everyone. It's Retail Therapy specializes in chic women's fashion. Serendipity and SugarBelle are fun and flirty, and Beaufort Belle is #allthingsouthern girl. Outdoorsy? Stroll into Bay Street Outfitters to find clothing and gear, as well as fishing guides with deep knowledge of local waters. Looking for toys or gifts? Take a peek in Sassafras or Monkey's Uncle.

McIntosh Book Shoppe packs plenty of titles into its cozy space, including signed books by local legend Pat Conroy. NeverMore Books on Port Republic Street specializes in new and used books, along with vintage vinyl.

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Habersham

Just a few short miles from downtown Beaufort and nestled along the banks of the Broad River, this Master Planned Community has the distinction of being a *Southern Living* “Inspired Community of the Year,” and one of *Coastal Living’s* “Top 20 Places to Live on the Coast.” Set in a walkable village style that boasts over 20 shops and services, Habersham also has a half-dozen unique eateries sure to please any palate. Habersham’s residential community currently has over 400 homes and has been named the Best Neighborhood in America by the National Home Builders Association.

Barrack’s Antique Mall, Yemassee



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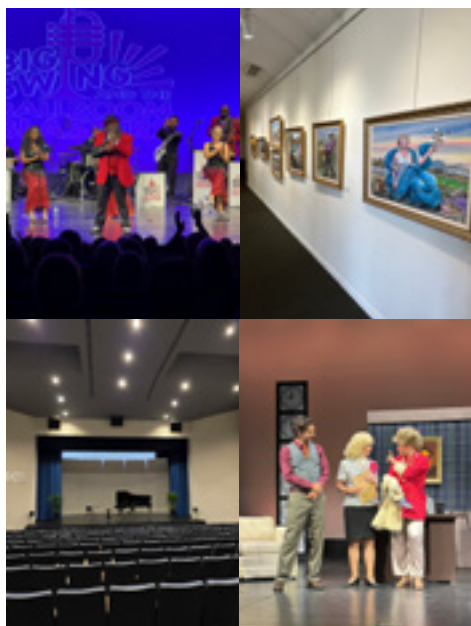
Beaufort is consistently recognized as one of the top small arts towns in the United States. Hundreds of local artists representing every discipline, and a diverse array of venues – including several galleries – along with festivals and special events showcase the area's talents.

Rich in African traditions, the Gullah culture influences artists of all types. Internationally acclaimed painter Jonathan Green crafts brightly colored canvases that reflect his upbringing in this area. Throughout the region, basket weavers create intricately patterned and coiled sweetgrass baskets, a fading handicraft that can be traced back hundreds of years through slavery to Africa.

A glance at the calendar of events (page 72) reveals more of the town's cultural highlights.

Beaufort Galleries

- ◆ Atelier Off Bay, 203 West Street
- ◆ Beaufort Art Assn., 913 Bay Street
- ◆ Beaufort Arts Council, 921 Ribaut Road
- ◆ Beaufort River Glass, 812 Bay Street
- ◆ Green Herring Art, 917 Bay Street
- ◆ I Pinckney Simons Gallery, 711 Bay Street
- ◆ Rhett Gallery, 901 Bay Street
- ◆ Thibault Gallery, 815 Bay Street
- ◆ USCB Arts Gallery, 805 Carteret Street
- ◆ USCB Sea Islands Center Gallery, 1106 Carteret Street



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Oyster Festival happens in January, and in February it's the Beaufort International Film Festival. Chalk It Up! brings local street artists to town in March, and from May to September, Port Royal's Street Music on Paris Avenue is a big draw. In late May, Beaufort welcomes the annual Gullah Festival. The legendary Beaufort Water Festival brings a series of concerts to Waterfront Park in July, and October is all about our local Shrimp Festival.

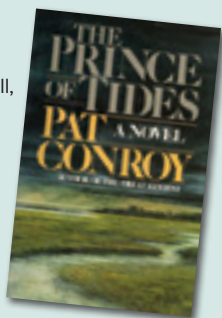
Large productions, theatrical and musical, take the stage at USCB Center for the Arts. Here, you'll see performances by the Beaufort Theater Company, the Beaufort Children's Theater, and a series of visiting artists. World class chamber musicians appear five times a year for the USCB Chamber Music Series, and the Beaufort Symphony Orchestra performs several concerts a year at Sea Island Presbyterian Church.



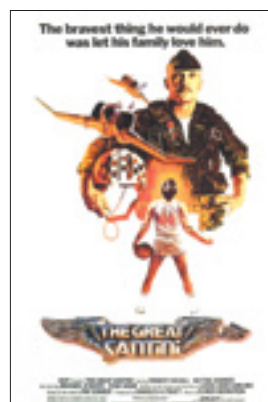
Beaufort's Annual Water Festival

Pat Conroy Literary Center

The Pat Conroy Literary Center was established in 2016, after the death of the great American writer for whom Beaufort was not just home, but muse. Conroy found inspiration here for some of his most beloved works, including *The Great Santini* and *The Prince of Tides*, both of which were also made into successful movies filmed in the area. Today, the Conroy Center works to cultivate a passionate and inclusive reading and writing community in honor of Beaufort's favorite son, who dedicated his life to spreading his love of literature and writing to future generations. Every fall, the center hosts the Pat Conroy Literary Festival, featuring writers and scholars from all over the South.



Movie Magic



“ *Beaufort is a movie star* ”

During the 1980s and '90s, especially, filmmakers flocked to this area for its splendor and scenic variety. Below are just a few local sites from some of your favorite movies.

Also, the Beaufort International Film Festival, started in 2006, brings in thousands of film buffs from around the country and filmmakers from around the world every February for screenings, seminars, and other events.

Film: *The Great Santini*, 1978 — Beaufort made its big-screen debut in the adaptation of this novel by local author Pat Conroy.

Sites: Ben finds his father under a tree on “The Green,” a park between King and Laurens streets in downtown Beaufort. Ben and Toomer drive down the breathtaking Avenue of Oaks on St. Helena Island.

Film: *The Big Chill*, 1983 — This blockbuster film really put Beaufort on the map as a popular tourist destination.

Sites: The famed “Big Chill house” (the same used in *The Great Santini*) is the historic “Tidalholm,” a private residence located in “The Point,” between Laurens and Hancock streets.

Film: *The Prince of Tides*, 1991 — Another Pat Conroy adaptation, starring Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte.

Sites: The Beaufort Arsenal (now home of the Beaufort Visitors Center) stands in as George Carlin’s swanky Greenwich Village apartment, and the Beaufort Naval Hospital plays New York’s Bellevue Hospital. Nick Nolte and Blythe Danner’s beach house is on Fripp Island, and

the bridge Nolte crosses in the final scene is the J.E. McTeer Bridge linking Port Royal and Lady’s Island.

Film: *Forrest Gump*, 1994 — This beloved film uses Beaufort as its backdrop in most scenes.

Sites: Fripp Island, where Ocean Creek Golf Course now lies, served as the backdrop for all Vietnam scenes. The tree where Forrest and Jenny play as kids stands at the end of Carolina Ave. (Take U.S. 21 past the Air Station, then a right onto Bruce K. Smalls Dr., then a slight left on State Rd. S. 7-623/Carolina Ave.) Run in Forrest’s footsteps along the Woods Memorial Bridge, connecting downtown Beaufort and Lady’s Island, and on the Chowan Creek Bridge between Lady’s Island and St. Helena Island.

Film: *Stars Fell on Alabama*, 2021 — The filmmaker, V.W. Scheich (former local!) used Beaufort and the surrounding region for most of the scenes.

Sites: Downtown Beaufort is the major backdrop for this romantic comedy of a Hollywood agent returning to his Alabama hometown for his 15-year high school reunion. His friends think he is dating a famous movie star, so he asks a client for a favor. Scenes of the blossoming new relationship include Downtown Bay Street, its shops, Beaufort Academy and USCB’s Center for the Arts.

Other movies filmed in Beaufort include

Chasers, Forces of Nature, G.I. Jane, The Jungle Book, Last Dance, The Legend of Bagger Vance, Radio, Rules of Engagement and ***Something to Talk About***, to name a few.



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Happily ever after begins here, where sunlight dances atop the river banks, and a cool ocean breeze dances with the Spanish moss hanging from giant oaks. Pink foxgloves blanket walkways and the clip-clop of horse hooves echoes down tucked-away streets.

Serene scenes like this aren't found just anywhere. But in Beaufort, they're endless. It's a picture-perfect destination designed for weddings.

Searching for the ideal location? Say, "I do" on the pristine, 5-mile beach at Hunting Island State Park, with a historic lighthouse as your backdrop. If you prefer a more floral background, host your wedding in the lush gardens at The Beaufort Inn or The Cuthbert House. Dataw Island offers elegant indoor and outdoor venues as well.

For a more traditional ceremony, several historic churches dot the area. The Baptist Church of Beaufort's iconic steeple and Greek Revival architecture date back to the 1800s. Another jewel is Anchorage

1770 on Bay Street. This historic home began as the William Elliott House; Elliot lived there from the early 1800's until the Civil War, a highly successful politician, planter, and sportsman. In 1891 the house was purchased by Rear Admiral Lester Beardslee, commander of the Port Royal Naval Station. Newly remodeled 607 Bay Street, originally built in 1907, also offers luxurious rooms, fit for a wedding party.

After the vows, keep the reception casual in beachside tents, or move the party to a spacious golf course. Fripp Island has two! Several sites, such as the Beaufort Arsenal, as well as historic and new hotels, feature beautiful reception spaces, some with outdoor patios. A number of B&Bs, inns and hotels accommodate large groups.

Beaufort is equipped with a variety of accommodations, along with food services that offer delicious Lowcountry fare. You'll find everything you need – wedding planners, caterers, lodging and restaurants – for your big day in Beaufort. Find more wedding info on our website.

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Stay Awhile



Beaufort has staying power – as in overnight stays that are endless in diversity, accessibility and peaceful goodnights throughout Beaufort, Port Royal and the Sea Islands, from large hotels to local inns. Whether you prefer counting sheep on 900-thread-count sheets or in a sleeping bag, Beaufort has the perfect place to lay your head.

Popular hoteliers have a presence in Uptown Beaufort, including Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn, and Springhill Suites. Closer to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort are The Hampton Inn, Tru, and Home2Suites. For a cozy place with a contemporary sheen, City Loft Hotel offers a boutique experience in the historic district, and the Best Western Sea Island Inn is also downtown. For even more local flavor, choose an historic B&B.

Beaufort and the surrounding areas are dotted with classic homes transformed into cozy inns. The Beaufort Inn, The Cuthbert House Inn, Anchorage 1770, Magnolia Court Guest Suites, 607 Bay, The Emerald, and The Rhett House Inn, circa 1785, astound guests with their historic grandeur. You'll enter a rich past full of luxurious fabrics, claw-foot tubs, blossoming gardens and wide verandas, without sacrificing modern conveniences. Looking for something different than a hotel or B&B? Short-term rental homes in Beaufort and Port Royal allow for more privacy and all the amenities of home.

Contemporary beachfront condos on Harbor Island or Fripp Island Resort are an ideal option for families. Residents enjoy beach access for all-day

*Steal Away to
The Lowcountry...*

**14 GUEST
SUITES**

**WATERFRONT
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Day dock in Downtown Beaufort

frolicking fun. If you're accommodating the entire family, expansive beach houses are the perfect fit. Kids can spend days swimming, building sandcastles and flying kites on the family-friendly beaches.

The Sea Islands make for idyllic retreats. If you'd rather provide your own shelter, park your camper or pitch a tent at Hunting Island State Park's campground facilities.

No matter where you stay, you'll find it easy to get around the area. Attractions lie within 30 miles of each other, so there's no need to rush, and you'll want to stay several days to see all the sights. Beaufort's prime location also allows you to take day trips to Savannah, Charleston or Hilton Head Island, and be back in town before sunset.



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Dataw Island features two top-rated golf courses, Har-Tru tennis courts, a full-service marina, croquet, bocce, pickleball, indoor & outdoor pools, fishing, crabbing, walking & cycling trails, bird watching, bocce, croquet, and on-site clubs & organizations, ranging from philanthropic to sports, arts to yachting, and everything in between. The Dataw Island Marina offers wet slips, transient services, dry stack, fuel, a restaurant, and more. Visit Dataw Island to see for yourself why it's been called the hidden gem of South Carolina!



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"Best Kayaking," "Best Island Community," "Best Health & Wellness" (IdealIVING)

"Best Community" "Best Golf Course" "Best Tennis Pro"
(Beaufort Gazette)



Learn more:

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Sometimes you visit a place that feels like more than a vacation spot. In fact, it starts to feel like home.

Beaufort is one of those places. Brimming with small-town charm and oh-so-Southern hospitality, Beaufort is a desirable address for all ages. The soul of the community comes through in small touches: church steeples piercing dense foliage, oak-canopied avenues, wooden steps leading to rocking chair-lined verandas and a sun-dappled waterfront park ideal for picnics and community events. Perhaps because of its formidable military presence (including two long-established Marine Corps bases), Beaufort extends a hearty welcome to out-of-towners laced with the genteel tenor of the South. Beaufort appeals to newcomers young and old. *Southern Living* has named it “The South’s Best Small Town,” and “One of the Most Magical Places to Spend the Holidays.”

CNNMoney.com and *Money* magazine cite the community as one of the nation’s “Top 25 Best Places to Retire,” while Beaufort County’s youth programs and health initiatives earned it a spot on the America’s Promise Alliance’s “100 Best Communities for Young People.”

“I love the South, and Beaufort exemplifies the lovely, gracious way of life in this part of the country,” says one local resident who moved from Maryland to Beaufort years ago. “The Southern politeness and manners are what brought me here.”

An interior designer, she purchased the second-oldest home in Beaufort, a beautiful two-story estate with a large garden in “The Point.” This historic neighborhood—with gurgling fountains and Confederate jasmine spilling over



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- *Coastal Living Magazine*

“Best Neighborhood Design in America”
- *National Association of Home Builders*

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wrought-iron gates—sits just blocks from the downtown district. “I’m within walking distance of everything,” she says. She routinely rides her bike to the post office, stopping to chat with neighbors along the way. “The only time I drive my car is when I go to the grocery store.”

Beaufort’s strong sense of community and an involved public were big draws for her. An active supporter of the town’s lively arts scene, she opens her home for tours to help raise funds for the Historic Beaufort Foundation. “We all know each other in my neighborhood,” she says. And even though there’s a steady influx of newcomers to Beaufort, she appreciates that “so many residents have lived here since birth.”

While Beaufort’s small-town charm attracts many, others are compelled by its accessibility. History, water, outdoor activities, arts and culture are easily available, and the area’s attractions all

lie within 30 miles. Beaufort also makes a great home base for day trips. Hilton Head Island, Charleston and Savannah are just a short drive away—so you can make it back in time to watch the sun set over the Beaufort River.

First-rate college opportunities also make Beaufort an appealing place to put down roots. The University of South Carolina Beaufort offers a broad curriculum of academic programs, from biology to studio art. At the two-year Technical College of the Lowcountry, students fine-tune career skills in fields like nursing, cybersecurity or multimedia design, and trades like HVAC. Continuing-education classes at both schools attract the area’s growing retirement population.

Beaufort’s real estate market accommodates all budgets and lifestyles. You can buy an affordable bungalow on a leafy side street, a contemporary condo in a beach community like Harbor Island,

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or an historic mansion in "The Point." Several new residential developments integrate the classic architectural style found in the pre-civil war era.

Housing options extend to part-time residences as well, for people who may not be ready for a permanent move, but want to live in Beaufort seasonally. Indeed, Motor Boating magazine identified Beaufort as one of the "top towns for season-long stays in Southern states."

"The diversity of housing options in this town is exceptional," notes Realtor Edward Dukes, a fourth-generation Beaufortonian. "Whether you're a boater, a golfer or someone who enjoys a daily stroll to the town, whether it's a small second home you're looking for or a beach house, a primary residence or a historic showpiece, Beaufort truly has something for everyone."



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Must-See: Residential Communities

Beaufort's appeal goes beyond its downtown district to other residential communities and islands in Beaufort County. When looking, check out what might make these other destinations perfect for your next move.

- ◆ **Celadon** is an example of Traditional Neighborhood Development with educational facilities, civic buildings, and commercial establishments located within walking distance of private homes. This creates a residential experience on a human scale.
- ◆ **City Walk**, in the historic downtown district is a creekside community within walking distance to shops, restaurants, parks, art galleries, and museums. Nestled in a park-like setting, City Walk features single family homes with garages, most featuring first-floor primary bedrooms.
- ◆ **Coosaw Point** is a 400 acre community along the Coosaw River on Lady's Island. The homes have been designed to reflect the historic local architecture and distinctive details and open floor plans make these homes ideal for families.
- ◆ **Dataw Island** presents gated living at its finest. If golf, tennis, pickleball, a full-service marina and gracious-but-casual houses are what sound like home to you, then visit this private residential island.
- ◆ **Fripp Island**, a designated wildlife sanctuary, offers 3,000 acres of natural beauty on the most seaward of South Carolina's barrier islands. Its nearly 1,000 residents appreciate its private feel, more than 3.5 miles of shell-dotted beach, two golf courses and full-service resort amenities, such as restaurants, tennis facilities and a marina. (Gated community.)
- ◆ **Habersham** has been awarded the "Best Neighborhood Design in America" by the National Association of Home Builders, thanks to its innovative town plan that is as sensitive to the environment as it is to the residents. The Habersham Marketplace combines retail, restaurants and office space for a unique community space that also hosts community festivals.
- ◆ **Harbor Island** is tucked between St. Helena Island and Hunting Island, and its natural beauty creates a setting and vacation retreat experience worth repeating. Harbor Island features a variety of vacation rental homes and condominiums to accommodate couples, families, large groups, and year round residents. Outdoor pools, tennis courts, a putting green, and three miles of pure, untamed, sandy white beach create a private vacation playground unlike any other. (Gated community)
- ◆ **Islands of Beaufort's** park-like setting comes with towering pines, live oaks and a variety of blooming plants that ensure year-round color. Many homes in this country club-like atmosphere overlook broad tidal marshes. (Gated community)
- ◆ **Newpoint**, on Lady's Island across the river from Beaufort's historic district, features traditional Lowcountry architecture. Both retirees and families with young children find the friendly community inclusive and appealing.
- ◆ **Pinckney Retreat**, a sister community to City Walk, is a gated community just 7 minutes from the historic downtown. It lies in the midst of 400 year-old live oaks draped in Spanish moss and is a sanctuary for the both the wildlife and the residents that live there. (Gated community)



Your Official Source

The Beaufort Visitor Center, located in the historic Arsenal in the heart of the Downtown District, is staffed with friendly and professional information specialists who can customize your Lowcountry experience to your preferences. Maps, brochures, tour reservations and special sites to visit are all available at the Visitor Center.

From driving down a tree-lined canopy road to kayaking the Intracoastal Waterway, there are special moments that will bring you back to Beaufort again and again. History comes alive in Beaufort, and it starts at the Arsenal, originally built in 1798, and one of the nation's oldest arsenals. It was rebuilt in 1852, and the designer is believed to have been John Gibbes Barnwell. The Arsenal was designed in the Gothic Revival style (the original tabby wall was removed and replaced by a stuccoed brick wall).

Our friendly information specialists can help you reserve a tour, discover the best restaurants, locate the many galleries and shops, and even direct you to the perfect getaway spot to relax and unwind. Beaufort, Port Royal and the Sea Islands are great places to create everlasting moments.

For more information about visiting or relocating to Beaufort, please visit us at www.beaufortsc.org or call us at 843.525.8500.

The Visitor Center is located at:

713 Craven Street, Beaufort, SC 29902

Find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/VisitBeaufortSC



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Marketing Director – Amanda Hanna
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Layout & Design – Amalgamated
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- Tabby Place - 5,696 sf
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- Tabby Garden
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Best Western Sea Island Inn 1400 sf,

1015 Bay St., Beaufort, 843-522-2090

Hilton Garden Inn 1,450 sf or two 750 sf of meeting space, 1500 Queen St., Beaufort, 843-379-9800

Fripp Island Resort, Private meeting rooms, activity and meal packages, golf, tennis, pickle ball, boating, etc. Equestrian center and event venue. 843-838-1507

Historic Arsenal, courtyard max. 360 people, 713 Craven St., Beaufort, 843-525-8500

Holiday Inn & Suites 4,292 sf, 2225 Boundary St., Beaufort, 843-379-3100

Home2 Suites 1,785 sf, 3658 Trask Pkwy., Beaufort, 843-379-4663

Penn Center Frissell Community House is available for meeting space. 16 Penn Center Cir., St. Helena Island, 843-838-2432 www.penncenter.com

Port Royal Sound Foundation 6 Multiple meeting rooms available plus 5,000 sf available outdoors. 310 Okatie Hwy. Okatie, 843-645-7774,

www.portroyalsoundfoundation.com

SpringHill Suites 650 sf of meeting space, 2227 Boundary St., Beaufort, 843-379-9924

Tru by Hilton 1250 sf of meeting space, 3662 Trask Pkwy., Beaufort, 843-379-5511

University of South Carolina - Beaufort Theatre Rental is available for meeting space, 801 Carteret St., Beaufort, 843-521-4145, www.uscbcenterforthearts.com



Fripp Island



Calendar of Events

Dates are subject to change. Visit BeaufortSC.org for specific dates and more information

FIRST FRIDAYS

- ◆ Shops open late on Bay St. each month
Downtown Merchants Association

JANUARY

- ◆ Pelican Plunge
www.friendsofshootingisland.org
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr. Parade
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ Oyster Festival
www.beaufortoysterfestival.com
- ◆ Restaurant Week; www.beaufortsc.org

FEBRUARY

- ◆ Beaufort International Film Festival
www.beaufortfilmfestival.com
- ◆ Bands, Brews & BBQ
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ BMH Foundation Valentine's Ball
Fundraiser www.bmhsc.org

MARCH

- ◆ Chalk it Up – Freedman Arts District
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ March Forth at Penn Center
www.patconroyliterarycenter.org
- ◆ Spring Art Walk; www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ Beaufort Charities Oyster Roast
beaufortcharities.org/oyster-roast-festival

APRIL

- ◆ Lafayette Soirée; www.historicbeaufort.org
- ◆ Soft Shell Crab Fest
www.oldvillageportroyal.com
- ◆ MCAS Air Show; www.beaufortairshow.com
(every 2 years)

MAY

- ◆ A Taste of Beaufort; www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ The Original Gullah Festival
www.originalgullahfestival.org
- ◆ Street Music on Paris Avenue
www.beaufortsc.org (May to August)

JUNE

- ◆ Garden A Day: Tour of Gardens
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ Music Festival of the Lowcountry

JULY

- ◆ Annual Beaufort Water Festival
www.bftwaterfestival.com
- ◆ 4th of July Celebration Port Royal
www.beaufortsc.org

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Street Music on Paris Avenue
www.beaufortsc.org

OCTOBER

- ◆ Beaufort Shrimp Festival
www.beaufortshrimpfestival.com
- ◆ Fall Festival of Houses & Gardens
www.historicbeaufort.org
- ◆ Fall Art Walk
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ Habersham Harvest Festival
www.habershamsc.com
- ◆ OktoPRfest Fest
www.oldvillageportroyal.com

NOVEMBER

- ◆ Friends of the Library Book Sale
www.beaufortcountylibrary.org
- ◆ Pat Conroy Literary Festival
www.patconroyliterarycenter.org
- ◆ Homes for the Holidays
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration
www.penncenter.com
- ◆ Fort Fremont Harvest Festival

DECEMBER

- ◆ Artists Sunday – Freedman Arts District
- ◆ Downtown Beaufort Holiday Weekend
www.downtownbeaufort.com
- ◆ Marine Corps Band Christmas Concert
www.beaufortsc.org
- ◆ New Years Eve Fireworks
Downtown Beaufort, www.beaufortsc.org

Here & There

Getting Here

It's easy to get to Beaufort, Port Royal and the Sea Islands, no matter the mode of transportation.

BY CAR:

Beaufort sits along U.S. 21, U.S. 278, and S.C. 170 — just a short jog from major north/south routes U.S. 17 and I-95.

BY AIR:

Savannah/Hilton

Head International

(SAV) is 50 miles from Beaufort.

Info: 400 Airways Ave., Savannah, GA 31408, (912) 964-0514,

www.savannahairport.com

Charleston International (CHS) is 75 miles from Beaufort. Info: 5500 International Blvd., Charleston, SC 29418, (843) 767-1100, www.chs-airport.com

Hilton Head Island Airport (HHH) is less than an hour from Beaufort and offers select commuter flights operated by US Airways Express and Delta Connection that link to hubs of major international airlines.

Info: 120 Beach City Rd., Hilton Head Island, SC 29926, (843) 255-2950

Beaufort County

Airport on

Lady's Island accommodates private and corporate aircraft. Info: 39 Airport Cir., Beaufort, SC 29907, (843) 770-2003

BY TRAIN:

Amtrak's Silver Service/Palmetto line runs from New York to Florida with daily stops in North Charleston and Yemassee (25 miles from Beaufort).

Info: (800) USA-RAIL, www.amtrak.com



Getting There

Beaufort's prime location allows you to take easy day trips to surrounding cities, such as

Hilton Head Island, Savannah, and Charleston. Then return to Beaufort, your relaxing, affordable home base.



DISTANCES:

Hilton Head Island — 35 miles via S.C. 170 West and U.S. 278 East

Savannah — 42 miles via S.C. 170 West
Charleston — 70 miles via U.S. 17 North

Illustrations by Steve Stanekiewicz

Beaufort, Port Royal



& the Sea Islands



- 1 Beaufort County Airport (private planes)
- 2 Beaufort Marina
- 3 Chapel of Ease
- 4 Dataw Island Marina
- 5 Fort Fremont
- 6 Frogmore Four Corners Shopping District
- 7 Hunting Island Lighthouse
- 8 Hunting Island State Park
- 9 Lady's Island Marina
- 10 Parris Island Graduation Parade Deck
- 11 Penn Center
- 12 Port Royal Marina
- 13 The Sands Beach & Boardwalk
- 14 US Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
- 15 US Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island

Downtown Beaufort



"The Point"



Downtown Shopping District

- ① Arsenal/Beaufort Visitor Center
- ② Baptist Church of Beaufort
- ③ Beaufort City Hall
- ④ Beaufort County Government Center
- ⑤ Beaufort County Library
- ⑥ Beaufort National Cemetery



Illustrations by Steve Stanekiewicz

- 7 Downtown Marina of Beaufort
- 8 Post Office
- 9 Pat Conroy Literary Center
- 10 St. Helena Cemetery
- 11 Parish Church of St. Helena
- 12 Statue of Robert Smalls
- 13 Tabernacle Baptist Church

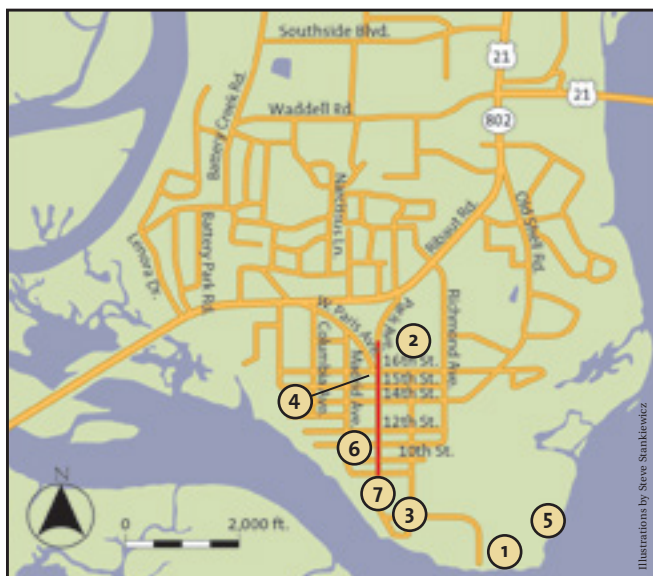
- 14 University of South Carolina Beaufort
- 15 Verdier House Museum
- 16 Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park

Uptown



- 1 Beaufort City Hall 4 Beaufort Town Center 6 Pigeon Point Boat Landing
2 Beaufort County Govt. Center & Courthouse 5 Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort 7 Pigeon Point Park
3 Beaufort National Cemetery

Port Royal



- 1 The Boardwalk
- 2 Cypress Wetlands Park
- 3 Port Royal Town Hall
- 4 Post Office
- 5 The Sands Beach
- 6 Union Church
- 7 Port Royal Shopping District (Paris Ave.)

Illustrations by Steve Stankiewicz.



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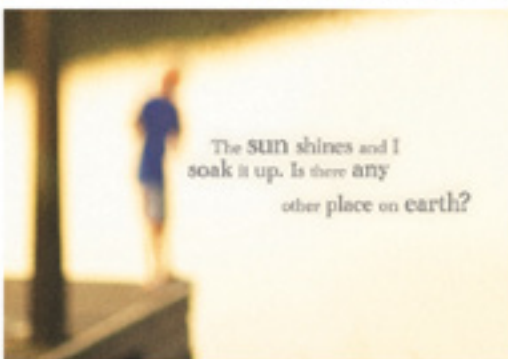


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