



HOSPITALITY

Guide



Island Ambassador
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



Hilton Head Area Hospitality Association

Hilton Head Island has long been recognized as a premiere destination resort for travelers from far and wide. It is known for its world-class golf courses, first-rate tennis facilities and its 12 miles of white sand beaches.

People are drawn to this lush paradise for various reasons and discover upon arrival, that this is truly a special place for countless reasons. We have a unique location, a colorful history, a captivating environment – and wonderful people.

Visitors notice our hospitality almost immediately, are quick to comment on our friendliness and our willingness to help them make the most of their time here. We already know what a great place this is – we want to share it with everyone!

That's the nature of an ambassador – to be helpful and hospitable and to promote the best qualities of one's home. A good ambassador represents his or her community by being a contributing part of that community by sharing its attributes with those who are new to the area.

This guidebook is intended to aid Island Ambassadors in their quest to help others. We have compiled all sorts of information that can be shared with visitors, newcomers and residents. The chapter headings are presented in the form of questions that are frequently heard by those in the hospitality industry here.

We hope you find this book useful, fun and informative.
It has been our pleasure to prepare it for you.



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What's the history of Hilton Head Island?

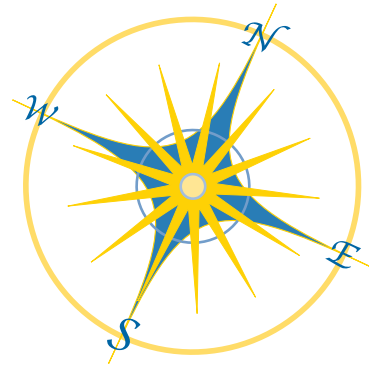
From its earliest days, Hilton Head Island was inhabited by Native Americans, followed 10,000 years later by the Spanish in the early 1500s.

French Captain Jean Ribaut arrived in 1562, and seeing no evidence of a Spanish presence, established the first colony, Charlesfort, on Parris Island, but it was soon abandoned. The Spanish returned in 1566 and the area called Santa Elena, now St. Helena Island, served as the capitol of Spanish Florida for 20 years, before it too was abandoned.

In 1663, eight English Lord Proprietors owned Carolina and they commissioned Captain William Hilton, from Barbados, to search for new land to grow sugar cane. Sailing around Port Royal Sound, Hilton spotted a "headland" on the island's north end and the island became known as Hilton's Head.

Cattle-raising and indigo farming shaped the island's colonial economy, but the great fortunes of the 1800's were raised on Long Staple Sea Island cotton. By 1860, more than 20 cotton plantations fanned out across Hilton Head, tended to by thousands of African slaves.

The Civil War started in April 1861 and the Union Army attacked Hilton Head in the Battle of Port Royal on November 7, 1861. The Confederates evacuated to the mainland, while the Union landed almost 13,000 forces on Ft. Walker.



Hundreds of abandoned slaves with no place to live filed onto Hilton Head. With military assistance they built Mitchelville, the nation's first freedman's village. During the Union occupation, the island's population swelled to over 40,000.

When the soldiers left in 1868, the population dwindled to only a few thousand. Some of the freedmen remained – they fished in waters and farmed on land once owned by their masters. Their "Gullah" culture, a blend of African and American words and traditions, remained intact in the relative isolation of Hilton Head.

From 1868 until 1950 the few hundred people who lived and visited Hilton Head Island used the island for hunting, farming and fishing. In 1956 a young Yale graduate, named Charles Fraser, bought 5,000 acres of land and began developing Sea Pines Plantation. Fraser's development model highlighted the island's natural beaches, marshes and forests. His vision may have been far fetched at the time, but 50 years later we are still enjoying the results. ***Today's population numbers around 35,000 residents, and hosts up to two million visitors every year.***



Contents

Welcome to beautiful Hilton Head Island!

I am honored to have you visit our beautiful Island. Hilton Head Island is widely known as a world-class place to visit and our Hospitality Guide will help you discover the many activities and amenities that have encouraged people to return year after year. Visitors enjoy our hospitality so much, that many have become residents!

Our Island is truly special, and we want you to discover and be able to share all that it has to offer. Experience our interesting history, ecology, fabulous entertainment and cultural diversity, children's activities galore, recreation areas, miles of scenic bicycle paths and beautiful beaches. Plus our Guide can help you learn many fun and interesting facts that can add to the enjoyment of your visit.

We know you have a choice and we thank you for choosing Hilton Head Island as your vacation destination. We hope you find our Hospitality Guide helpful and will return to Hilton Head Island for your next vacation.

Sincerely

Thomas D. Peeples

Thomas D. Peeples

Mayor

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Island Info...

The area code for all of Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and Daufuskie Island – the entire Lowcountry – is 843.

Contents of this guide are not all-inclusive of Hilton Head Island area information. All are proofed for accuracy, but not guaranteed.

Can I get there from here?

The easiest thing about driving on Hilton Head Island is that there is one main road.

U.S. Highway 278 East is the road that brings travelers from I-95 or SC 170 through Bluffton and to the bridges of Hilton Head Island. Once over the bridge, it runs through the north end of the island, around the middle and on to the Sea Pines Circle. All other roads, it seems, turn off of this major artery. For that reason, when directions are needed, it is helpful to determine if the destination is north, south or mid-island.

Mile markers are helpful too. The Town of Hilton Head Island placed them several years ago to make giving directions easier. Many businesses use them as reference points in their advertising. They start with 0 on the island side of the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. The Cross Island Parkway begins just past mile marker 2, the road to the hospital is at marker 4; roads to the beaches start at 6.

Going Around In Circles

Driving our circles is not difficult if basic guidelines are followed. Traffic moves continually and to the right. Pay close attention before merging into the circle. Use turn signals before exiting the circle. Do NOT stop in the circle. And whatever you do, do NOT turn left!

Don't be confused by all the names given to our "main drag." On the island, Highway 278 Business becomes the William Hilton Parkway or some islanders refer to it as just plain "278."

Keep in mind that the Cross Island Parkway is also designated as Highway 278 and it also has mile markers. The toll road bisects the island, connecting Spanish Wells Road to Palmetto Bay Road across Broad Creek.

The toll is \$1 per two-axle vehicle, plus 75¢ per additional axle. The "early" exits onto Spanish Wells and Marshland Roads are 75¢ per vehicle, plus 75¢ per additional axle. Residents may elect to prepay for a transponder device that automatically deducts the toll in the Palmetto Pass (Office 342-6718) lanes. All others should use the "Cash" lanes to pay the toll.



What's there to see?

Hilton Head Island is so much more than golf, tennis, shopping and the beach. This semi-tropical paradise shows off nature at her beautiful best. The cultures of our people are flavorful and exciting. History can come alive here when it is sought and studied.

The best way to learn about our environment, culture and history is to take one of the many tours offered. Whether by trolley, van, bus, bicycle, on foot, aboard a boat or in a kayak, you can explore even the nooks and crannies and gain a new appreciation for all our island offers.

Coastal Discovery Museum A good place to start is the Coastal Discovery Museum (689-6767). They offer beach and nature walks, historical tours, and cruises through local waters. You can learn about beach creatures, walk through a Civil War fort, watch for dolphins and see the nesting areas of some magnificent birds. The exhibits inside the Museum are interesting and educational as well.

Gullah Heritage Trail Tour For a glimpse into a unique way of life for native islanders, The Gullah Heritage Trail Tour is a good choice (681-7066). You can see Marsh Tacky horses, tabby ruins, sweetgrass baskets and other aspects of this colorful culture.

Several other companies offer nature tours via kayak, boat or bus. Check local listings for one that suits.

Where's that?



Hilton Head Island is shaped like a sneaker, with the toe pointing southwest. With this description, it is easy to give directions to various sections of the island.

At the toe, or south end of the island, is Sea Pines, Palmetto Bay, the Coligny Beach area, Shipyard Plantation, Long Cove and Wexford Plantation.

The instep, or mid-island, areas include Palmetto Dunes, Folly Field, Spanish Wells and the Marshland Road area. Broad Creek looks like a shoelace dangling over the island's mid-section.

Port Royal Plantation is considered mid-island too, though it is actually the heel of the shoe.

On the north end, or ankle, are the Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, Palmetto Hall Plantation, Hilton Head Plantation, Indigo Run, the public schools campus and the Squire Pope area.

Skull Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway separate the island from Pinckney Island and the mainland.

Where's the beach?



Hilton Head Island is famous for its beaches.


As a resort, Hilton Head Island may be better known for its world-class golf and tennis, but don't forget the beach. Visitors and residents of all ages love our 12 miles of white sand shore.


The Town of Hilton Head Island offers four beach parking areas for the general public and one for residents only. Parking meter costs are 25¢ (quarters only) for 15 minutes everywhere except Driessen and Coligny lots which have master meters*. All beach parks include free handicap parking and are wheelchair accessible with special beach mats over the sand. Lifeguards are stationed at designated swimming areas. Restrooms, water fountains and soda machines also are available.

Beachfront hotels, villas and rental homes obviously offer direct beach access for their guests. Other rental properties and gated communities offer access as well. It's important to note that although all our beaches are public, access to them may be private.

For additional information contact the Town of Hilton Head Island (342-4580) or Shore Beach Services (785-3494).

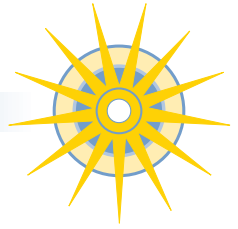
 **Alder Lane Beach** is next to Marriott's Grande Ocean Resort, off South Forest Beach Drive, with parking across the street on Woodward Drive. Twenty-four metered spaces are available, two are handicap accessible. The designated swimming area extends 100' to the north and 100' to the south.

 **Coligny Beach**, located off Coligny Circle at Pope Avenue, has 32 metered spaces, two are handicap accessible. A long-term lot with 420 parking spaces is across the street – the entrance is on Pope Avenue and the exit is on South Forest Beach Drive. The designated swimming area is from The Breakers condominiums to the Holiday Inn.


 **Driessen Beach** is located mid-island at the end of Bradley Beach Drive. The parking lot has 209 regular spaces and six handicapped spaces. The designated swimming area extends 400' to the north and 400' to the south.

**Coligny and Driessen parking lots each reserve 30 spaces for annual beach-pass holders from 8 am to 3 pm. Otherwise the fee is 50¢ an hour on weekdays and a flat \$4 rate for Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.*

Beach Rules



 **Folly Field Beach** is located mid-island at the end of Folly Field Road off William Hilton Parkway. The parking lot accommodates 54 vehicles with two handicap-accessible spaces. The designated swimming area is 100' north of the boardwalk and 200' south.

 **Islanders Beach** is located near the end of Folly Field Road, just south of the rear entrance to The Westin Resort. The park's 100 parking spaces are reserved for those who live or own property on Hilton Head Island and who buy a \$15 annual beach-pass parking sticker.

For maximum enjoyment of our beaches, please practice *common courtesy* with your beach toys, food containers, radio and anything else you bring. Please read the posted beach regulations at designated swimming areas and beach parks.

Basic beach guidelines include:

- ★ Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the beach, nor are glass containers.
- ★ Animals are allowed at certain times; please check the seasonal rules. Dogs are also allowed at the Chaplin dog park – see page 14 for more information.
- ★ Motorized vehicles, except wheelchairs, are prohibited.
- ★ Don't harass or disturb the wildlife, which includes live sand dollars and creatures in shells.
- ★ Use the trash receptacles provided at intervals along the beach access areas.

Simply put: When you're ready to go, leave only your footprints!



The white signs with red numbers seen along the beach near the dunes are emergency markers, set at commonly used beach access points and used by lifeguards to accurately direct emergency personnel when needed.

For additional beach information contact the Town of Hilton Head Island (342-4580) or Shore Beach Services (785-3494).

Animal Regulations

April 1–Thursday before Memorial Day

Animals on a leash between 10 am and 5 pm

Friday before Memorial Day –
Monday of Labor Day weekend

No animals allowed on beach between 10 am and 5 pm

Tuesday after Labor Day – September 30

Animals must be on a leash between 10 am and 5 pm

October 1–March 31

No leashes required at any time. The animal is required to be under positive voice control.

On the beach or not, local law requires owners to clean up after their pets.



Where can we play golf?



Since 1969, when Arnold Palmer won the first-ever Heritage golf tournament at the new Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head Island has been known world-wide for its golf. Today, the island and surrounding areas boast more than 45 courses, some of them acclaimed among the top facilities in the nation. "Golf Digest" named Hilton Head Island as one of the "World's Top 10 Golf Destinations."

In the following list, "private," means that a golfer must be a member or the guest of a member. We have included those courses in the event that a visitor might be interested in buying property in those communities with private facilities. Kids play free at some courses.

Hilton Head Island Golf Courses			Private	Semi-Private	Public
		Phone #			
Hilton Head Plantation	Bear Creek	681-2667	★		
	Country Club of Hilton Head	681-4653		★	
	Dolphin Head	681-5550	★		
	Oyster Reef	681-7717		★	
Indigo Run	Golden Bear Golf Club	689-2200			★
	The Golf Club at Indigo Run	689-5666	★		
Long Cove Club	Long Cove Golf Club	686-1020	★		
Palmetto Dunes	Arthur Hills Course	785-1138			★
	George Fazio Course	785-1138			★
	Robert Trent Jones Course	785-1138			★
Palmetto Hall Plantation	Arthur Hills Course	689-4100		★	
	Robert Cupp Course	689-4100		★	
Port Royal Plantation	Barony Course	681-1750		★	
	Planter's Row Course	681-1750		★	
	Robber's Row Course	681-1750		★	
The Sea Pines Resort	Harbour Town Golf Links	842-8484		★	
	Sea Marsh Course	842-8484			★
	Sea Pines Country Club	671-5081	★		
	Ocean Course	842-8484			★
Shipyard	Shipyard Golf Club	689-4653		★	
Spanish Wells	Spanish Wells Golf Club	681-2819		★	
Wexford Plantation	Wexford Golf Club	686-8812	★		

Bluffton Golf Courses		Phone #	<i>Private</i>	<i>Semi-Private</i>	<i>Public</i>
Belfair	Belfair East	757-0715	★		
	Belfair West	757-0715	★		
Berkeley Hall	Berkeley Hall North	815-8444	★		
	Berkeley Hall South	815-8444	★		
Colleton River Plantation	Dye Course	837-3010	★		
	Nicklaus Course	837-3131	★		
Crescent Pointe	Crescent Pointe Golf Club	706-2600			★
Eagle's Pointe	Eagle's Pointe Golf Club	686-4457			★
Moss Creek	Devil's Elbow North	785-6182	★		
	Devil's Elbow South	785-6182	★		
Rose Hill Plantation	Rose Hill Country Club	842-3740		★	
Sun City Hilton Head	Hidden Cypress Golf Club	705-4999		★	
	Okatie Creek Golf Club	705-4653		★	
Executive Golf Club	Fording Island Road (Hwy. 278)	686-6400			★
Hilton Head National	National/Player Course	842-5900			★
	National/Weeds Course	842-5900			★
	Player/Weeds Course	842-5900			★
Island West Golf Club	Fording Island Road (Hwy. 278)	689-6660			★
Old Carolina Golf Club	Buck Island Road	785-6363			★
Old South Golf Links	Fording Island Road (Hwy. 278)	785-5353			★

Daufuskie Island		Phone #	<i>Private</i>	<i>Semi-Private</i>	<i>Public</i>
Daufuskie Island Club and Resort	Bloody Point Golf Club	842-2000	★		
	Melrose Golf Club	842-2000		★	
Haig Point	Signature Course	686-9202	★		
	Osprey (9 holes)	686-9202	★		



Tennis, anyone?



Tennis ranks second only to golf as the sport of choice on Hilton Head Island. The island is sprinkled with courts of all surfaces, although some are located within gated communities and are not open to the public. They are listed here in the event that a guest is staying in one of these communities, or is the guest of a resident or member.

In addition to the courts listed, there are free public tennis courts at the Bluffton Recreation Center and also near Fairfield Plaza, near the intersection of Highway 178 and Spanish Wells Road on Hilton Head Island.

Hilton Head Island Tennis			Phone #	Hard Clay	Har-Tru Clay Grass	Private	Semi-Private	Public
Fiddler's Cove Racquet Club	Folly Field Road	842-5744			★	★		
Hilton Head Island Beach & Tennis Resort	Folly Field Road	842-4402	★					★
Island Tennis Club	Folly Field Road	785-8012	★	★		★		
Long Cove Tennis Club	Long Cove Club	686-1030			★	★		
Moss Creek Tennis Center	Moss Creek	837-2240		★		★		
Palmetto Dunes Tennis Center	Palmetto Dunes	785-1152	★	★			★	
Port Royal Racquet Club	Port Royal Plantation	686-8803	★		★	★		
Sea Pines Racquet Club	The Sea Pines Resort	363-4495			★			★
South Beach Racquet Club	The Sea Pines Resort	671-2215			★			★
Spring Lake Racquet Club	Hilton Head Plantation	681-3626			★	★		
Sun City Tennis Center	Sun City Hilton Head	705-4022			★	★		
Van der Meer Shipyard Racquet Club	Shipyard	686-8804	★	★				★
Van der Meer Tennis Center	DeAllyon Road	785-8388	★					★
Wexford Tennis	Wexford Plantation	686-8816		★		★		
Windmill Harbour Sports Center	Windmill Harbour	681-3100		★		★		
Daufuskie Island Tennis								
Haig Point		689-9204			★	★		
Bloody Point		341-4875			★		★	
Melrose Club		341-4810			★		★	

Where are the marinas?



As one would expect in a place completely surrounded by water, Hilton Head Island has its share of marinas. From the world-class to the more casual, you can find many boating services at the following marinas.

Our marinas also are headquarters for water-related activities such as parasailing, personal watercraft rentals, dolphin watch tours and charter fishing trips. The harbormasters can give you details.

Hilton Head Marinas		Phone #	# of Slips
Harbour Town Yacht Basin	Sea Pines	671-2704	85
Broad Creek Marina	Marshland Road	681-3625	100
Outdoor RV Resort & Yacht Club	Jenkins Road	681-3256	101
Palmetto Bay Marina	Helmsman Way	785-3910	140
Hilton Head Boathouse	Squire Pope Road	681-2628	350
Shelter Cove Marina	Shelter Cove Harbour	842-7001	170
Skull Creek Marina	Hilton Head Plantation	681-4234	180
South Beach Marina	Sea Pines	671-6699	100
Windmill Harbour Marina	Windmill Harbour	681-9235	258

Boat Ramps In addition to marinas, public boat ramps and docks offer free, easy access to our waterways.

- **Broad Creek Ramp**, mid-island on Marshland Road, access to Broad Creek
- **Buckingham Landing**, Fording Island Road Ext., just over the second bridge leaving Hilton Head Island, access to Mackay Creek
- **C.C. Haigh Jr.**, Fording Island Road Ext., just over the first bridge leaving Hilton Head Island, access to Mackay Creek
- **Jenkins Island Dock**, end of Jenkins Road, north end of the island, access to Skull Creek

Rules for Operation of Personal Watercraft (e.g. Jetski®)

- No personal watercraft may be operated at night.
- All passengers on personal watercraft must wear a US Coast Guard approved flotation device.
- Anyone under 16 who wants to ride a watercraft of 15 horsepower or more without an adult must first pass a safety training course.
- Craft must be equipped to circle or shut off if the rider falls off.
- No vessel may exceed idle speed within 50' of a moored vessel or other fixed object/person, nor within 100 yards of the Atlantic coast (beach).
- No one may jump a wake within 200' of the vessel creating it.
- Boaters are prohibited by law from harassing wildlife. This includes feeding dolphins.



What is the state of the arts?



One of the most vibrant aspects of life in the Lowcountry is the strength of our arts community.

This area has become a haven for visual and performing artists in many media. From world-renowned painters to best-selling novelists, this is home for many creative personalities.

At any given time, you might find a Broadway musical onstage, a gallery exhibition of a well-known regional artist or a professional dance troupe performance. Perhaps you prefer to check out youth theatre, local artists' works or the symphony. The arts are alive here!

No matter what your taste, you'll find some artistic event, venue or exhibit to savor on Hilton Head Island and in Bluffton. Here is a listing of local organizations where you might discover ways to satisfy your hunger for the arts or maybe even get involved.

Arts Center of Coastal Carolina • 842-2787
Bluffton School of Dance • 815-2619
Guild of Bluffton Artists • 757-5590
Hilton Head Art League • 681-5060 or 686-2032
Hilton Head Dance Theatre • 842-3262
Hilton Head Jazz Society • 842-4457
Hilton Head Orchestra • 842-2055
Hilton Head Community & Youth Theater • 689-6246
Low Country Artists Guild • 597-0505
Seahawk Theatre Guild • 681-3560
Society of Bluffton Artists • 342-9018
South Carolina Repertory Theatre • 681-5194



You will find all sorts of music here, especially during the summer. Many restaurants, especially those that offer al fresco (outdoor) dining, provide live music in the form of guitarists, keyboardists, duos and bands. Some of the hotels offer poolside – even oceanside – serenades during the high season.

On summer evenings, two popular entertainers welcome families to their outdoor stages. At Harbour Town, under the Liberty Oak, Gregg Russell entertains the children of folks who enjoyed his show when they were children themselves (Fun For Kids 671-3590). Over at Shelter Cove Harbour, Shannon Tanner hosts a show with a similar format (Activities Hotline 785-9087). Both musicians play original music and old favorites, and invite children to join them on stage for portions of the show.

What is there for kids to do?



Life for kids on Hilton Head Island can be fun and exciting. Here are a few suggestions for keeping the youngsters happy. Just don't forget the sunscreen for outdoor activities. (Also see Playgrounds and Rainy Day Activities.)

Beach time is fun time, if you have the proper equipment and toys. In addition to sand pails and shovels, lots of kids play in the sand with dump trucks, diggers and strainers. For those who like waves, boogie boards are popular, and older kids get a kick out of skim boards.

Water Park If salt water is not a preference of the kids, try our water park located in South Forest Beach. It was designed for children, with shallow pools, two water slides and gentle spray jets, plus a snack bar and 18-hole mini-golf course (842-8108).

Mini-golf is a popular evening activity, although some folks choose to go during the day, when the courses are less crowded. There are many miniature golf facilities, some with multiple courses. One of these facilities includes an indoor arcade for even more fun.

Library For quiet times, the Hilton Head Island branch of the Beaufort County Public Library is a good destination (342-9200). The library has a wonderful and well-equipped children's section. During the summer and occasionally during the off-season, special programming and story hours are held. The library is on Beach City Road, off William Hilton Parkway on mile marker 4.

Musical entertainment is generally enjoyed as much by kids as parents, and two venues offer kid-oriented programs during the summer. In Harbour Town, Gregg Russell sings under the Liberty Oak (671-3590), while Shannon Tanner offers a similar stage show at Shelter Cove Harbour (785-9087). Shelter Cove Harbour offers a great fireworks display Tuesday nights from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Kayaking Take the entire family kayaking through our backwaters and marshes for an exciting way to get close to nature. These vessels glide easily across smooth water and move only as fast as you paddle. No experience is necessary.

Summer Day Camps & Activities

For summer visitors, a kids' camp might be in order. Possibilities include sports, theater, ecology, nature - the list goes on! Several of the larger properties host kids' activities, so check with your concierge. Also, call these popular spots for special program details:

Island Recreation Center • 681-7273

Coastal Discovery Museum • 689-6767

Beaufort Co. Parks & Leisure Services • 757-1503

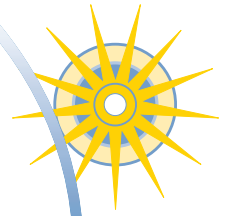
Boys & Girls Club • 689-3646

Arts Center of Coastal Carolina • 842-2787

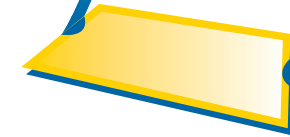
—Many offer indoor & outdoor activities—



Are there parks and playgrounds?



You've played golf, you've played tennis, but now you just want to play. Here are several places you can hang out, have a picnic, shoot some hoops or kick around a soccer ball with the kids. The island has many good parks and playgrounds that are open to the public.



Barker Field is off Beach City Road on the island's north end. The complex includes three multi-purpose fields and a soccer/football field. There is also a playground area with equipment for all ages. The park is available for private groups and is managed by Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services (PALS 842-2119).

Chaplin Park is located mid-island between Singleton Beach Road and Burkes Beach Road. It's a popular spot for soccer and baseball leagues. A playground is nestled in the shade and also available are tennis courts, basketball courts and concessions. One unique feature here is the dog park. It's a great place to take the pooch for a run during times he's not allowed on the beach (681-7273).

Crossings Park is located on the island's south end off Arrow Road. Featured are three lighted softball/baseball fields. This is home for our Dixie Youth Baseball League ('99 and '01 winners of the Dixie Youth World Series). Fields are managed by PALS and used also by adult softball leagues and may be used by private groups (842-2119).

Also onsite are a regulation soccer field, a basketball facility and the Kids' Crossroads playground.

Within Crossings Park is Bristol Sports Arena, which includes a roller hockey rink and a skate park with ramps. The skate park is free and open to bladers and skateboarders, but bikes are not allowed inside.

Take a picnic and enjoy some leisurely hours in the spacious meadow. It's free and open to the public.

Gregg Russell Harbour Town Playground, named for the popular children's entertainer who sings under the Liberty Oak, is located next to the main parking lot in Harbour Town. This is the island's largest playground and maybe the most popular. Structures are made of wood and metal with bars overhead for swinging. There's a tree house wrapped around a huge live oak, and traditional swings and slides. Toddler rides are set apart from the larger structures. There's plenty of room for parking bikes, and the playground is safely fenced from the nearby parking lot (363-4530).

Honey Horn is a former working plantation consisting of 68 acres with historic buildings scattered about. The land is leased by the Coastal Discovery Museum, which preserves most of the acreage as green space and also hosts outdoor festivals there (689-6767).

Island Recreation Center is a multi-use recreation facility with something for just about everyone. Play basketball inside the gymnasium or outside on three courts. There are also two courts for volleyball. The multi-purpose field is used for soccer, softball, baseball and football, but also is available for rent.

In cooler months, the large outdoor swimming pool is covered with a temporary dome and heated. Call for "open swim" times. The playground is good for all ages and is the only one handicap-accessible.

Check inside for all kinds of activities for kids and adults including yoga, dance classes, sports activities and even summer day camp (681-7273).

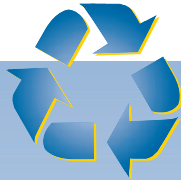
The Island Recreation Center also partners with the S.H.A.R.E. center for senior activities (785-6444).

Jarvis Creek Park is convenient to the north end of the Cross Island Parkway, and in fact was created as a result of that project. In addition to a multi-structure playground, there are two covered picnic pavilions, one with restrooms (681-7273).

Shelter Cove Community Park is a passive park, meaning there are no play structures or facilities. When the park is not hosting a festival or concert, it's a good place to relax on the banks of Broad Creek and toss a ball with the kids (681-7273).

Shelter Cove Harbour playground is nestled in a cozy, shady spot near the gazebo in Shelter Cove, near where Shannon Tanner sings each summer. Climbing structures, swings and see-saws keep youngsters happy while parents watch from comfortable benches (785-1106).

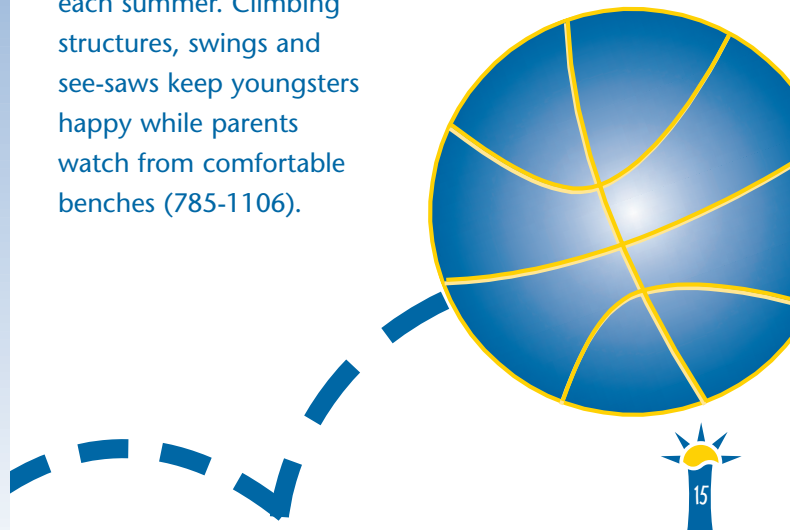
Recycle...Recycle...Recycle



Otter Hole – Main collection site behind Wal-Mart
Port Royal Plaza – Between Bi Lo and Midas
Shelter Cove Plaza – Behind Piggly Wiggly
Dunnagan's Alley – Behind Hardee's

- All sites collect cans, glass and newspaper.
- Paper, magazines and oil collected at Otter Hole and Dunnagan's Alley.
- Otter Hole collects household garbage, yard waste, and large items and is open 7 days a week
7 am – 7 pm weekdays and 8 am – 6 pm weekends.

Lowcountry Recycling Association – 681-8995



Historical Landmarks

Listed below are some historical sites on Hilton Head Island, and directions to see them.

Fort Walker*

The fort was built in 1861 at the entrance to Port Royal Sound, to protect the area from Union attacks.

Battle of Port Royal*

A navy fleet of more than 50 ships attacked Ft. Walker on Hilton Head November 7, 1861 in the Battle of Port Royal. The Union landed nearly 13,000 troops and built warehouses, hospitals, saw mills and a pier in the newly established "Department of the South."

Fort Sherman/Fort Mitchel*

In 1862, the Union built Forts Mitchel and Sherman for added defense. Fort Mitchel, set along Skull Creek, guarded against water attacks while Fort Sherman, encircled Fort Welles and protected it from land raids. Fort Welles is the Union's name for Fort Walker, after Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles.

Robber's Row*

The town named Port Royal grew up around the Union occupation. Restaurants and stores on Sutler's Row earned the new nickname "Robber's Row" for the prices they charged.

Mitchelville • Beach City Road.

In 1862, General Ormsby Mitchel set up the nation's first freedman's village to house former slaves. Its residents elected town officials, made



their own laws and established South Carolina's first compulsory education law.

Fish Haul Plantation • Bay Gall Road, next to Barker Field. Tabby chimney ruins are all that remain of the Dreyton family cotton plantation. Two brothers, Thomas and Percival Dreyton, fought against each other in the Battle of Port Royal.

Zion Chapel of Ease and Cemetery • Hwy. 178 and Matthews Dr. A small Episcopal church, built for plantation owners in 1788 but later destroyed, is home to the Baynard family mausoleum and a cemetery. Charles Davant, a patriot supporter who was killed in a raid led by Tory supporters from Daufuskie Island in 1781, is buried here.

Green's Shell Enclosure • Squire Pope Road.

A shell ridge built for fortification by Native Americans along Skull Creek around 1350 A.D.

Indian Shell Ring • Sea Pines Forest Preserve, near Lake Joe.

Formed around 4,000 years ago, it is one of 21 known U.S. shell rings. Shells, bones and debris make up this circular "dump" that surrounded Indian campsites.

Stoney-Baynard Ruins • The Sea Pines Resort, Baynard Cove Road.

The remains of a plantation home and its outer buildings, most likely constructed in the early 1800s. The buildings are made of tabby, an early form of cement made with oyster shells, sand and water.

*These locations are in Port Royal Plantation and are accessible only through arranged tours by the Coastal Discovery Museum of Hilton Head. For information, call 689-6767.

Leisure Pathways

For leisurely strolling, jogging, or biking, there are 12 miles of hard-packed beach, along with over 30 miles of public pathways on major roads.

The Town's pathways follow alongside:

- William Hilton Parkway (Hwy. 278 Business) from Sea Pines Circle to Gumtree Road
- North Forest Beach Drive
- South Forest Beach Drive
- Pope Avenue
- Cordillo Parkway
- Palmetto Bay Rd. over the Cross Island Pkwy.
- Point Comfort Road
- Folly Field Road to Folly Field Beach Park
- Beach City Road
- Squire Pope Road
- Gumtree Road
- Beyond Gumtree Road on William Hilton Parkway are sidewalks as far as the bridge

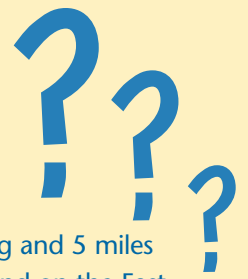
Where there are leisure paths, cyclists should stay on the paths and not ride in the street. Where there are bike lanes on the roadways, cyclists should ride single file and travel with traffic. Motorized vehicles, except electric wheelchairs, are prohibited on the pathways.

Leisure paths within gated communities are for the use of residents and their guests only. You must have a gate pass to enter (342-4580).

State Symbols...

Bird: Carolina wren Seashell: Lettered olive
Flower: Yellow Jessamine Dance: Shag
Tree: Palmetto, featured on our state flag

Got a question



How big is the Island? It is 12 miles long and 5 miles wide. It is the second largest barrier island on the East Coast. Only Long Island, NY is bigger.

How many people live here? (2002 figures)

Town of Hilton Head Island: 34,600; Bluffton: 1,600

When was the first bridge built? The first bridge to connect Hilton Head Island with the mainland was built in 1956. It is now named the J. Wilton Graves Bridge.

When did Hilton Head Island become a town?

The town was incorporated in 1983.

Can I camp on Hilton Head Island? Only RV

camping is allowed. North end – Outdoor Resorts RV Resort & Yacht Club (681-3256). Or south end – Resorts of America/Motor Coach Resort (785-7699).

What's the oldest structure?

The Baynard Mausoleum is the oldest building intact (see Historical Landmarks, left).

What is a "plantation"? These are gated communities and you'll need a pass from a resident or a rental agency to enter. For entry into some plantations, you have to buy a pass.

What is tabby? Tabby is a cement mixture of lime, oyster shells and sand that was used to build early structures in the sea islands.

What is Gullah? The word "Gullah" likely stems from the country, Angola, home to many African slaves brought here in the 1800s. Due to their isolation living on the sea islands, these Africans infused their words, traditions, and customs into American ways. They formed the "Gullah" or "Geechee" culture, unique to the sea islands along South Carolina and Georgia.



What if it rains?



You came to Hilton Head Island for a tropical vacation in the sun, expecting the daily temperatures to be warm and the beverages to be cold. You came to play golf or tennis, to relax on the beach, to ride bicycles everywhere, to dine al fresco by the harbor. And then it rains.

Don't despair! There is still plenty of fun to keep everyone occupied, happy and delightfully satisfied with the trip. Here are some suggestions:

Arcade What's the beach without an arcade? There are several on the Island and one that features the typical indoor games, plus laser tag, bumper cars and a virtual reality roller coaster.

Art galleries Discover local artists in varied media and you might take home a true island treasure.

Bowling We have a bowling center with 30 lanes. It has a snack bar and a small arcade too.

Dining So you can't sit outside and watch boats sail past, but you can still get a great view from many island eateries. Take this opportunity to enjoy a long, leisurely lunch at some favored spots of the locals.

Library If you like to read and want to catch up on the news or use the internet, both the Hilton Head Island (342-9200) and Bluffton (757-1519) branches of the Beaufort County Public Library are here to serve you. Read up on local history and maybe even catch a kids story hour while you're there.

Movies Our multi-plex movie theaters are open year-round and for extended hours during the summer season. Both show the latest releases and offer matinees at reduced prices. There's also a theater that specializes in foreign and art films.

Museum A rainy day is a good time to check out the Coastal Discovery Museum. Some programs are held onsite rain or shine, and the exhibits are always on view during operating hours (689-6767).

Shopping We have an indoor shopping mall and several other shopping centers under canopies and covered breezeways.

If none of these suggestions appeal to you, check with your rental agency or concierge desk for more specific ideas. Or, just wait an hour or so – the rain showers are likely to blow out of the area as quickly as they arrived. And keep in mind that here in the South, it's not rain – it's liquid sunshine!

What's that growing there?



Hilton Head Island is graced with a lush and varied semi-tropical environment. Much of the plant life seen here is indigenous to the island.

This place is a nature lover's paradise!

Crepe myrtle In the spring, our landscape is graced with the fluffy blossoms of the crepe myrtle. Taller than most shrubs, the crepe myrtle has a multi-branched, smooth trunk and waxy green leaves. You might see these colorful plants in our medians, blooming with white, pink, red, fuschia or purple flowers.

Live oak tree This is a tall hardwood with a thick trunk and gracefully spreading branches covered with small green leaves and often draped with Spanish moss. In addition to providing shade for humans, the live oak provides habitat for birds and squirrels, while its acorns provide food.

Palmetto tree Our state tree, the palmetto is plentiful in the Lowcountry. They grow 20' to 60' tall, with spiky fan-like fronds at its top. Its seeds are berry-like, and the birds love them. The V-shaped brackets on the trunk just beneath the fronds are the dead leaf stalks. They fall off as the tree grows. Crafty types collect them to make "reindeer" decorations during the holidays!

Pine tree Tall and straight, many kinds of pines thrive here, depending on where they are growing. Loblollies are the most abundant. They

grow up to 75' tall and produce yellow pollen in late winter and early spring which covers everything underneath with a yellow, dusty coating.

Sea oats Growing along our shoreline, these tall grass-like stalks topped by golden grain are important to the protection of our dunes. Sea oats catch blowing sand off the beach to gradually build dunes below. The plants send their roots as deep as eight feet, further fortifying the beaches and preventing erosion. They are so valuable to our ecology that they are protected by South Carolina law. It is illegal to pick, cut, dig or otherwise harm these plants.

Yucca Also called Spanish Bayonet, the yucca grows naturally in our sandy dunes. They sometimes grow to 12' with stiff dagger-shaped leaves and beautiful creamy white blossoms atop a central stalk. Be careful of the spiked leaves – they can give you a painful poke.

Spanish moss – that stringy gray stuff hanging in our trees – is neither Spanish nor moss. It is an epiphyte, meaning it grows "in the air," and is a member of the pineapple family. Henry Ford used it to stuff the seats of his first automobiles.



Where are the wild things?



Here in the Lowcountry we appreciate and respect our wildlife. Some are wilder than they might seem, so it's best to give them plenty of room and not harass them.

Alligator While they might seem “cute,” alligators can be vicious. The male grows to nearly 14' long, tipping the scales at about 500 pounds. Alligators have very sharp teeth, powerfully strong jaws, and mighty tails that they can whip around in a flash. Alligators are lightning fast and can outrun a human for 25 yards on land.

The best way to view an alligator is from afar. Keep children and pets away from lagoon edges. Do not feed, taunt, or throw anything at 'gators, in the lagoons or on shore. They are short-tempered and will attack if threatened.

Deer It is quite likely that if you drive some of our darker roads between dusk and dawn you will see a few white-tail deer. These beautiful animals seem to thrive in our lush environment. Our deer are unique to the island, they are smaller than normal deer, weighing only about 130 pounds full grown. Even so, the deer can cause serious damage if he runs into a vehicle that has just startled him, so stay alert when driving at night.

Dolphin Don't be confused when you see dolphins playing in the surf, and then read “mahi mahi” on the menu. There's a difference: the bottlenose dolphin that frolics in our waters is a marine mammal; the other creature is a fish.

Local tour companies offer dolphin watch cruises so guests can get a good look at these delightful creatures. If you happen to get close enough to touch one, resist the urge. Don't feed them either. The Federal Marine Mammal Protection Laws prohibit it.

Birds A good bird identification book is a good investment for those interested in the hundreds of species visible here in various seasons.

Brown pelican commonly seen flying along the shoreline in V-formation or dive-bombing for fish.

Great blue heron nearly 4' tall with crooked neck and beautiful slate-blue plumage, this stately wading bird is often seen at a lagoon's edge.

Great egret, white bird with black feet, yellow beak, and **snowy egret**, black beak with yellow feet, are often confused with their cousin, the blue heron.

Sandpiper several species, from 6" to 15" tall, run along the shoreline, dodging the waves while hunting for morsels of food burrowed in the sand.

Sea gull the comedians of the beach come in several varieties, with the laughing gull making the most noise.

Other Critters

Chameleon small lizard also known as green anole; changes color to suit the environment.

Fox squirrel larger than the grays, and with a reddish coat.

Gray squirrel the small one seen scampering through tree branches and along the landscape.

Opossum unless you have really sharp eyes and watch the trees at night, you probably will not see these beady-eyed creatures.

Raccoon the masked bandit of garbage who pillage at night.

Skink broad-headed, larger lizard that races rather than rambles; striping, color and size – 5" to 12" long – differ by species.

Wild turkey looks rather like the Thanksgiving variety, but not as large.

While hunting is not allowed on Hilton Head Island, fishing and gathering shellfish are fun and relaxing for some. The rules for permits, harvesting season, and size and catch limits vary depending on several variables. For the best information, call the S.C. Department of Natural Resources at 803-734-3447.

Audubon Newhall Preserve This beautiful natural area, located off Palmetto Bay Road, offers a self-guided tour so visitors may discover the beauty of native flora and migratory waterfowl – all identified by markers. The Hilton Head Audubon Society oversees the preserve, and admission is free to the public. The gate closes at dark (785-5775).

Pinckney Island National Wildlife Preserve is a 4,000 acre island located off Hwy. 278 just over the J. Wilton Graves Bridge. The paths and roads are excellent for walking and bird watching. The natural rookery is spectacular. Also, look for alligators, raccoons and snakes.

Take bicycles along if you want to ride the six miles to the northern point where Native Americans were the first to occupy the land. A National Wildlife Preserve, Pinckney Island is free to all. Closes at dark. No pets allowed (652-4415).

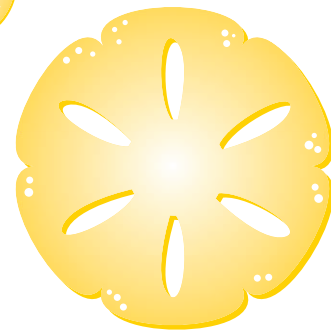
Sea Pines Forest Preserve, inside the Sea Pines Resort, is a pleasure for nature lovers on bike or on foot. It is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Visitors must pay a \$5 fee at the Sea Pines gate.

Inside, trails wander among old rice fields, a wild-flower meadow, lakes, bird rookeries and marshes. Take an alligator tour or see it all on horseback or on foot (363-4530).

A short walk off Lawton Drive leads to the Indian Shell Ring, formed around the time of the pyramids of Egypt – 4,000 years ago. It is one of only 21 shell rings still in existence and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



What are these beach creatures?



Hilton Head Island's shoreline is home to many varieties of animal life, all of which are an important part of our coastal ecosystem.

Please study and enjoy sea creatures, but leave them where you find them. Local laws prohibit the removal of live animals from our shores. Collect only those seashells that are empty and sand dollars that are gray-white.

Ghost crabs Walking on the beach at night, you're likely to catch a quick glimpse of a ghost crab racing across the sand in search of food. These nocturnal creatures are small and nearly translucent, even "ghostly." They burrow in the soft sand during the day, sometimes with only their eye stalks poking out.

Hermit crabs, these small, soft-bellied marine crabs have no shells of their own, so they take up residence in empty whelk, snail or moon shells. When they outgrow one shell, they will move on to a larger one.

Horseshoe crabs Often found on the island's shores is the large, U-shaped hard shell of the horseshoe crab with its spiked tail. These creatures live on the sea floor and crawl ashore to lay thousands of eggs. (Hint: you could take the shell home, but chances are once you smell it, you'll leave it where you found it!)

Sand dollar These greenish-brown, cookie shaped creatures are found underfoot while wading in the surf. They wash ashore in storms and if left on the beach, the sun bleaches them white. Turn a live sand dollar over and you can see its hundreds of tiny tube feet waving in unison. Sand dollars serve as filters in our ecosystem.

Starfish It's easy to understand how this creature got its name. The five-armed, flat starfish lounge on top of the sand in the ocean and can sometimes be found in tide pools. If a starfish loses an arm to a predator, a new one will grow back. Starfish can grow as large as 5" in diameter.

Whelks, commonly mistaken as conchs, are found after storms and high spring tides. Inside the large shell lives a saltwater snail, although once it vacates, other shellfish, worms and hermit crabs might move in.

Loggerhead turtles

One of the most magnificent creatures on Hilton Head Island is the loggerhead sea turtle, the ancient-looking reptile that weighs in at about 300 pounds. From May 1 to October 31 is nesting and hatching season, and these giants lumber out of the sea at night to lay 80 to 150 golf ball sized eggs in a deep nest that they methodically dig with their paddle-like flippers in the soft sand of our beaches.

Loggerheads are a threatened species, and our Coastal Discovery Museum (689-6767) sponsors a *Sea Turtle Protection Program* to monitor their comings and goings as well as their nests (page 5). If nests are found in unsuitable locations, the specially trained project workers move the nests to improve the chances of survival for the hatchlings.

If you should happen upon one of these great turtles on the beach, do not touch her, shine light on her or harass her – she is protected by state and federal laws.

The Museum conducts programs about their efforts to save loggerheads and how the general public can help. One part of this protection program is the annual *Lights Out on the Beach* campaign. During nesting season, residents and guests in beachfront dwellings should keep outside lights off the beach between 10 pm and dawn. The turtles are drawn back to the sea by the light of the moon, and any artificial light will confuse them into redirecting their path.

Protect Our Turtles

- All outside beachfront lights off at beachfront properties after 10 pm from May 1- October 31
- Don't touch or tamper with nests
- Never remove eggs from the nest



Wetlands

As the name might suggest, wetlands are those areas of land that are not quite solid ground, but not exactly under water either, except perhaps at high tide.

By far the most abundant type of wetlands around the island is the salt marsh. This is the grassy area that borders the creeks and channels. It teems with life, from the tiny creatures that live in the boggy pluff mud to the stalky plants that thrive here.

At high tide, only the tops of the spartina grass can be seen, waving to and fro as the salt water ebbs and flows.

The aroma of a salt marsh at low tide is unmistakable. Some find it a bit offensive and “swampy,” while others breathe deeply and inhale the richness of the natural elements.

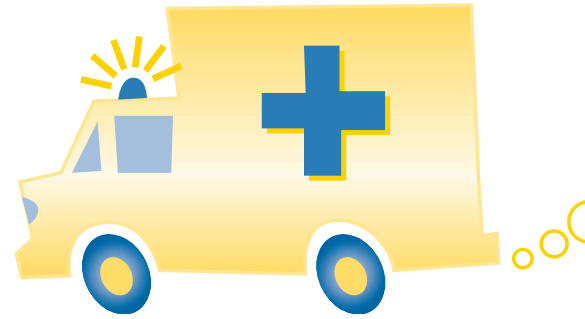
Our wetlands are legally protected by the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Monthly Average Air & Ocean Temperatures

Month	Air	Ocean	Month	Air	Ocean
JAN	59°	52°	JUL	89°	84°
FEB	61°	54°	AUG	89°	84°
MAR	67°	59°	SEP	84°	80°
APR	76°	67°	OCT	77°	73°
MAY	82°	75°	NOV	69°	63°
JUN	86°	82°	DEC	61°	54°



What if I get hurt?



We hope you won't need any first aid while visiting the Lowcountry. If you do have any of the following problems, these hints may help ease the pain. In case of emergency, dial 911.

Alligators Do NOT go near alligators. Do NOT feed or tease them! Alligators can outrun a human for 25 yards. If you encounter an alligator lazing in the sun quickly and quietly go the other way.

Bee stings Apply a baking soda paste and ice. Benadryl ointments can help stop the itch.

Jellyfish stings Apply vinegar, sugar, salt or dry sand. Lifeguards keep a bottle of a vinegar solution to spray on stings. Meat tenderizer works well too. After 20 minutes, rinse with salt water.

Oyster shells, barnacles Oyster shells and barnacles are often attached to dock pilings. Cuts and abrasions can result in serious infections. Clean the wound with peroxide. Medical treatment is advised.

Snake bites Call 911, some local snakes are poisonous and their bites can be deadly. Use a compression dressing just above the bite, NOT a tourniquet.

Stingray Rinse with water and apply heat. Apply pressure to wound with a finger to stop bleeding. Seek medical attention. It is possible that the barb can break off in the flesh and cause infection.

Sunburn Soak in cool water unless skin is broken or blistered. Aloe gels and sprays are available in pharmacies. Ibuprofen may help.

Ticks Do not attempt to remove. Cover with petroleum jelly or a film of oil. When insect is free, remove with tweezers. If flu-like symptoms occur within two weeks, seek medical attention.

Is there a doctor in the house?

In any emergency, dial 911. Our 911 service alerts police, fire and medical rescue personnel.

For non-emergency situations, call:

Beaufort County

Sheriff's Department (Hilton Head Island) . . . **785-3618**

Hilton Head Fire and Rescue **682-5100**

Hilton Head Regional Medical Center. **681-6122**

Located on the north end off Beach City Road
(mile marker 4) – Emergency Room open 24/7

There are several urgent care medical facilities:

Cross Island Medical Center, North end **681-8260**

Main Street Medical, North end. **681-3777**

Parkway Medical Center, Mid-island. **785-7515**

Urgent Care at Sea Pines Circle, South end . . . **341-3232**

What goes on year 'round?



Southern Beaufort County hosts numerous festivals, arts, sporting events and fund-raisers throughout the year. The following list is a sampling of on-going events. Check local media for other happenings, or www.hiltonheadisland.org.

JANUARY

Winter Carnival, a month-long event that includes concerts, food & wine, opera, and art. **686-4944**

FEBRUARY

Native Islander Gullah Celebration features art, music, and food of the native sea islanders. **689-9314**

MARCH

SpringFest is a month-long series of events – including such things as WineFest, HealthFest and WingFest, as well as special arts demonstrations, kayak clinics, road races, golf and tennis tournaments, and musical concerts. **686-4944**

St. Patrick's Day Parade attracts thousands of spectators and parade entries. **842-4319**

WineFest largest outdoor wine tasting on the East Coast for 19 years. Over 900 wines to taste from all over the world. **686-4944**

APRIL

The Heritage of Golf PGA tournament swings into action at the Harbour Town Golf Links, bringing to the area the best names in golf. **671-2448**

Promising Picassos student art exhibit. **681-5381**

MAY

BRAVO Festival of the Arts packs the month with theater, music, fine art and food. **785-3673**

Family Fiesta Latina festival celebrating the food, music and dancing of the Latino culture. **842-ARTS**

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

HarbourFest Tuesdays, throughout the summer, at Shelter Cove Harbour includes crafts, food, music, and more, with fireworks at 9 pm. **785-1106**

July 4th celebrations explode at Harbour Town, Shelter Cove Harbour and Skull Creek Marina with incredible fireworks at each location.

Summer Jam Concerts all summer long on Tuesdays featuring a different local band. **681-7273**

SEPTEMBER

Celebrity Golf Tournament brings stars of TV, film, music and sports to the area. **842-7711**

FoodFest features the island's restaurants and allows the community to sample their specialties. **686-4944**

OCTOBER

An Evening of the Arts is a gala fund-raising auction of art donated by regional artists. **681-5381**

NOVEMBER

Concours d'Elegance international premiere car event featuring fine vintage and classic autos. **785-7469**

Community Christmas Tree Lighting takes place the day after Thanksgiving. **842-ARTS**

Taste of the Season, offering samples of cuisine from some of the area's finest restaurants. **785-3673**

DECEMBER

Bluffton Christmas Parade **757-3855**



Where can we go for a day trip?

Just over the bridge is the quaint town of Bluffton. Still within easy driving distance are three interesting and vibrant cities: Beaufort, SC, Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA. And Daufuskie Island, SC is only accessible by boat. Each one is worth a day's visit.

Bluffton located just over the bridge, was a quiet summer get-away in the 19th century for wealthy planters and has now become a thriving center of activity, with increasing residential and commercial interests being developed.

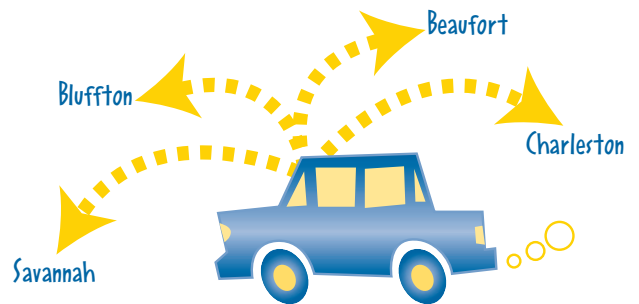
Situated on a bluff overlooking the May River, Bluffton's original square mile is now its Old Town historic district. The town's boundaries have grown in the past few years as more areas are annexed.

An arts district is springing to life downtown with galleries, potters, photographers, and an assortment of artists. Bluffton offers a variety of shopping, accommodations and restaurants.

A number of houses and churches are on the National Register of Historic Places. To reach the Bluffton Welcome Center call 757-6293.

Beaufort Just 33 miles away, taking Hwy. 278 to Hwy. 170, is Beaufort. A city filled with intriguing history, stunning architecture and much more.

From its place along the banks of the Beaufort River, its historic downtown intrigues visitors with its Southern charm. Beaufort is also a gateway to



dozens of sea islands, which are a rich Lowcountry mix of culture and ecology, history and adventure.

Take in the city's historic highlights by horse-drawn carriage or walking tour. You'll discover how many well-known movies were filmed in this lovely city. To reach the Visitors Center call 800-638-3525.

Charleston Sometimes called "The Holy City by the Sea" by its natives, Charleston is two hours north. Take Hwy. 278 west, to I-95 north. Exit Hwy. 17 to Charleston. To reach the Charleston Visitors Center call 800-774-0006.

The city blends the Old World and the new and the architecture of the historic district along the Ashley and Cooper rivers is amazing.

Old houses stand with their narrow ends right on the street, built to take full advantage of the ocean breezes. The tiered porches are strung along gardens filled with Lowcountry blossoms.

Narrated tours are available by horse-drawn carriage or trolley. Children and adults alike will enjoy a visit to the South Carolina Aquarium for an upclose look at native sea life.

Savannah is just an hour's drive along Hwy. 278 west to Hwy. 170 south, to Alt. 170 and then Alt. 17. Savannah offers a taste of history in its downtown and River Street districts. Founded in 1733, Savannah was one of the first planned cities in America. The grid of parallel streets, joined at intervals by 24 public squares, remains intact 260 years later.

Two popular areas are City Market, lined with restored shops, restaurants, taverns, studios and art galleries; and River Street, a narrow cobblestone drive along the Savannah River. Narrated tours of the city are offered on trolleys and horse-drawn carriages, as well as on riverboats. To reach the Savannah Visitors Center call 877-SAVANNAH.

Daufuskie Island only five miles long and a few miles wide and is located one nautical mile from Hilton Head Island. Secluded Daufuskie Island offers golf, accommodations, restaurants, three miles of pristine beach and tours of important historical sites including background on the settlement of the island. The primary mode of transportation is golf carts. Although there is no bridge to Daufuskie Island, there are two passenger water ferries that can take you there. Easy accessibility includes, the island's resort ferry that leaves from Squire Pope Road every even hour from 8 am-10 pm. Call 842-2000 for visitor information.

Air transportation is convenient and close by. Both airports offer daily flights in and out.

- The Hilton Head Airport is located on Beach City Road (681-6386).
- The Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport is just 45 min. away in Savannah, GA (912-964-2514).

Where can I find fellowship opportunities?

Although Hilton Head Island is a world-class vacation resort, it is also home to more than 34,000 full-time residents. Consequently, the spiritual community is strong here with opportunities for persons of all faiths to gather.

As we are located in the "Bible Belt," as the South is sometimes known, the larger denominations of Protestant churches – Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran – are well represented throughout the area. A large Catholic community is active as well, with two churches who both offer Spanish mass. Those of the Jewish faith meet at a synagogue on the island's north end.

Other groups gather for fellowship in various locations. You can find Unitarian Universalists, the Unity Church, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witness, Buddhists and other groups with a little research.

Check the Saturday edition of *The Island Packet* for a good listing of fellowship opportunities.

Island Info...

Spanish Wells is named for Spanish wells, really. They were freshwater wells where the mates on Spanish ships filled their casks during their stopovers here in the early 1500s.



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

All area codes are 843 – unless otherwise noted

Emergency	911
Beach Information & Services	785-3494
Beach Patrol	785-3494
Town of Hilton Head www.ci.hilton-head-island.sc.us	341-4600
Hilton Head Island Welcome Center Toll Free	785-3673 800-523-3373
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce 785-3673/800-523-3373 • www.hiltonheadisland.org	
Lowcountry Recycling Association	681-8995
Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding	341-4690
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (Spills of oil and hazardous materials)	803-898-3432
SC Department of Natural Resources General Information Wildlife Violations Hotline	803-734-3447 800-922-5431
Coastal Discovery Museum www.coastaldiscovery.org	689-6767

Local Publications

The Island Packet www.islandpacket.com	706-8100 877-706-8100
Carolina Morning News www.lowcountrynow.com	837-5255
Island Events www.hiltonhead.com	785-5924
Where To Go www.wheretogohiltonhead.com	686-5808
Hilton Head Island Restaurants Magazine	681-3800

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