



All About Beaufort, S.C.

Known for its Southern hospitality and casual seaside charm, Beaufort reigns as the "Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands." With its scenic waterfront charm, quaint shops and historic homes, Beaufort beckons, encouraging you to drift back in time and experience Southern hospitality at its finest.



Beaufort is South Carolina's second-oldest city, and Beaufort's historic area is one of the state's three national landmark districts. Beaufort County residents have the highest incomes and lowest unemployment in the state. Taxes are below the national average, too. Airports are easily accessible, as are military and civilian hospitals. Beaufort Memorial Hospital has nearly doubled in size in the past few years with new heart and cancer centers.

The city's resolve to maintain its character in the face of daunting growth prompted the National Trust for Historic Preservation to name Beaufort one of 12 "Distinctive Destinations" in the country, where past and present sit comfortably side by side.

Beaufort was recently recognized for the fifth consecutive year as the "Best Small Town" according to Southern Living. Beaufort's natural beauty frames its historic architecture. Union occupation during the Civil War saved the city's gracious old homes from destruction. Hollywood has also found that look picture-perfect. The Big Chill and Forrest Gump were filmed in Beaufort. Several movies based on Pat Conroy's novels were shot here, too.

HISTORY

First discovered by the Spanish in 1514 and chartered by the British in 1711, Beaufort is the second-oldest town in South Carolina. The area experienced great prosperity in the eighteenth century when indigo and rice plantations thrived. Prior to the Civil War, Sea Island Cotton also brought great wealth to Beaufort residents.

Today, an entire tapestry of Southern history is woven into Beaufort's landscape and is wistfully reflected in its tabby ruins, historic forts, elegant homes and majestic plantations. As horse-drawn carriages leisurely wind through the streets in the historic district - one of only three National Historic Landmark Districts in South Carolina - time seems to stand still in this picturesque waterfront community.



COMMUNITY

With its moss-draped oaks and historic homes, Beaufort is a terrific place to call home. Located just a few miles west of the Atlantic Ocean, Beaufort is a jewel along the Southeastern seaboard. An ideal place to raise a family, retire or relax, The Lowcountry features a wide range of amenities, combined with a laid-back atmosphere that makes every day special. Fresh ocean breezes, friendly people and centuries of history make Beaufort a unique place to live.

The Lowcountry also beckons retirees from many locations and all walks of life. The easy relaxed lifestyle and continuing availability of arts and culture are ideal features for a retirement destination.

Whether a rocking chair or a kayak is your idea of retirement, you can find it in Beaufort. You'll also find genuinely nice people who exude warmth and friendliness. Clubs, churches and organizations make it easy to fit into a new community or a new lifestyle. Supportive health services and convenient transportation are also suitable for the retiree.

CLIMATE

Low: January avg. temp. 49 degrees: 3.1" precipitation

High: July avg. temp. 88 degrees: 7.0" precipitation

Yearly avg. temp. 65 degrees: 49.4" precipitation



THE ARTS

The arts serve as the heart and soul of this coastal community, which was named one of "The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America." Beaufort is proud to be home to a thriving arts community, which features spectacular concerts, art exhibits, world-class dance performances and special cultural events throughout the year. Beaufort County has a thriving Arts Council that fosters chamber music, theater, bluegrass, jazz, Shakespeare, dance and visual arts. Beaufort has a symphony and ballet company, and there's a performing arts center at USC-Beaufort.

Bay Street Gallery - (843) 525-1024; 719 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Beaufort Art Association & Gallery - (843) 379-2222; 1001 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Four Winds Gallery/Market - (843) 379-5660; 709 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Red Piano Too Art Gallery - (843) 838-2241; 870 Sea Island Pkwy., St. Helena Island, SC

York W. Bailey Museum - (843) 838-2474; Historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island

Arts Council of Beaufort County - (843) 379-2787

Beaufort Orchestra Society - (843) 521-4145

The Penn Center - (843) 838-2432



FESTIVALS

Festivals are among the things done best in the Beaufort region where a celebration is almost always underway. Locals and visitors regularly take to the streets, parks and waterways to enjoy life with the special varieties of cuisine, entertainment, arts and activities which define the friendly communities and their customs.

Black History Month is observed each February with lectures, films and special events arranged at Penn Center and other venues within the region. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliberated there while writing his notable "I Have A Dream" speech, and the York W. Bailey Museum is a popular site for frequent cultural observances as well as for daily visits.

Spring Garden Walk displays the magnificent explosion of color that pays tribute to Southern tradition and Lowcountry climate. The Spring Tour of Homes is a seasonal highlight featuring beautiful private homes open for visitors. Art Walks are presented by the Guild of Beaufort Artists in conjunction with the Fall and Spring Tours of Homes and the spring Kaleidoscope: Film, Food & Fine Art.

Soft Shell Crab Festival is an annual event in April in the Town of Port Royal where old fashioned fun is the style in the streets of the Old Village with new shopping and dining choices.

Get ready for summer with A Taste of Beaufort in early May. Food, wine, art and music create a day-long event in the historic downtown. Free admission and tickets for individual purchases add to the easy celebration enjoyed by the whole city by the bay.

Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 in the Town of Port Royal with family activities, food, drink, entertainment and a dual fireworks display presented by Parris Island and the Town of Port Royal.

Water Festival brings 10 days of celebration to July with a variety of concerts, water skiing, talent contests, air shows, boat races and parades. Tournaments include golf, tennis, boating and bed races. Water lovers also enjoy decorated boats and the traditional Blessing of the Fleet. The popular festival celebrates its 53rd year in 2008.

Shrimp Festival in October includes a run and walk plus a huge exciting celebration of the shrimping industry. Enjoy local recipes and tastings or buy it from the boat to cook your own. Shop for arts and crafts in the festival by the bay and browse the unique shops and galleries in the downtown historic district. Free evening entertainment, contests and plenty of shrimp make this annual event unforgettable.



GOLF

Golf reigns supreme in coastal South Carolina, where greens welcome players of every skill level. Moss-covered oaks, tidal marshes and pine forests frame scenic Lowcountry golf courses that are home to an array of wildlife. Public and private courses abound throughout the area. Tee off on any of Beaufort's acclaimed courses to experience golf at its very best!

Bray's Island Plantation - (843) 846-3100 (18 Holes, Private Club)
Callawassie Island Club - (843) 987-2161 (27 Holes, Private Club)
Dataw Island - (843) 838-8250 (Cotton Dike & Morgan River, 36 Holes, Private Club)
Fripp Island - (843) 838-1576 (Ocean Creek & Ocean Point Courses, 36 Holes, Resort Courses)
Lady's Island Country Club - (843) 524-3635 (Pines & Player Course, 36 Holes, Public Club)
The Legends at Parris Island - (843) 228-2240 (18-hole, Public Course)
South Carolina National - (843) 524-0300 (18 Holes, Public Club)
Spring Island Old Tabby Links - (843) 987-2000 (18 Holes, Private Club)
Miniature Golf: Beaufort Fun Park - (843) 524-2267

DINING

From fine dining to casual fare, Beaufort has a restaurant to suit every taste, style and budget. Beaufort restaurants specialize in fresh local seafood and Lowcountry favorites, in addition to delicious American, French, Continental, Mexican, Chinese and Italian fare. Waterfront dining is a Beaufort specialty, as well as authentic Gullah cuisine. The following is just a small sample of what Beaufort has to offer. Bon appetit!

Barbara Jean's: (843) 524-2400; Lady's Island
Bateaux Restaurant: (843) 379-0777; Port Royal, SC
Beaufort Inn - (843) 521-9000
British Open Pub of Beaufort - (843) 524-4653
Emily's - (843) 522-1866
Gullah Grub - (843) 838-3841
Hemingway's Bistro - (843) 521-4480
Luther's - (843) 521-1888
Panini's Cafe - (843) 379-0300
Plums - (843) 525-1946
Saltus River Grill - (843) 379-3474
The Shrimp Shack - (843) 838-2962



ATTRACTIONS

Beaufort features some of the most magnificent homes, finest museums and fascinating historic sites in the Southeast. From sandy beaches to Arts in the Park, Beaufort offers a wide range of sightseeing options for visitors of all ages.



www.BeaufortExperts.com

Low Country Estuarium/A Coastal Learning Center:

Corner of Paris Ave., & 14th St., Port Royal, SC (843) 524-6600

Featuring indigenous local estuarine species. Open Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Other days by appointment.

Hunting Island State Park:

This 5,000-acre state park boasts miles of magnificent Atlantic beach, an 1,120-foot, free-standing fishing pier, a 1873 lighthouse and nature trails.

Parris Island:

Take a guided tour of the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot or set your own itinerary. Attend colorful graduation ceremonies and reserve several hours to view all the exhibits in a museum that traces military history and the island's first settlers.

Port Royal:

The city's trademark boardwalk offers magnificent views of Port Royal Sound. While you're here, check for productions at The Shed, a performing arts center that's a new magnet for downtown.

Famous Ruins:

Sheldon Church was ravaged in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. It is one of several Lowcountry ruins that will stir your imagination.

SHOPPING

Whether you're interested in exploring quaint boutiques, spectacular art galleries or unique antique shops, you'll find it all in downtown Beaufort. This charming city by the sea offers a wide range of options for the discriminating shopper. Here is just a small sample:

Fordham Market: (843) 524-3161 - 701 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Bay St. Jewelers: 902 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Bellavista Antiques & Interiors : Sea Island Pkwy., Frogmore, SC

Boondoggles : (843) 524-2334 - 905 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Cat's Meow: 913 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

The Chocolate Tree: 507 Carteret St., Beaufort, SC

The Collectors Antique Mall : 102 Sea Island Pkwy., Beaufort, SC

Cravings By The Bay: 928 Bay St., Beaufort, SC

Magnolia Bakery Café: 703 Congress St., Beaufort, SC

Palmetto Antique Gallery, Inc.: (843) 770-0570 - 491 D Parris Island Gtwy., Beaufort, SC

Red Piano Too Art Gallery: 870 Sea Island Pkwy., St. Helena Island, SC

Spotteddog Marketplace: (843) 524-7768 - 2127 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC





SCHOOLS

The Beaufort County School District operates 15 elementary schools, four middle schools, three senior high schools, and one school for exceptional children. Each of three regional clusters -- Battery Creek, Beaufort and Hilton Head -- has its own elementary, middle and high schools. A total of more than 17,500 students is enrolled annually. The community puts a premium on public schools, where teachers and students both excel. In the past several years, about \$300 million has been appropriated for new schools, and a private foundation helps provide laptop computers to students.

Beaufort County School District
1300 King St., P.O. Drawer 309, Beaufort, SC 29901
(843) 322-2333 - Fax: (843) 322-2371
[www.web.beaufort.k12.sc.us]

Private Schools:

Beaufort Academy (preK-12)	843-524-3393
EC Montessori & Grade School	843-525-1141
St. Peters Catholic School	843-522-2163

Institutions of higher education are the Technical College of the Lowcountry and the University of South Carolina at Beaufort. Also, evening classes are offered at Park University and Webster University.

Colleges:

Technical College of the Lowcountry
921 Ribaut Rd, Beaufort, SC
(843) 525-8324

University of South Carolina at Beaufort
801 Carteret St., Beaufort, SC
(843) 521-4100 www.sc.edu/beaufort/directory

University of South Carolina at Beaufort Graduate School
(803) 777-4243 - Fax: (803) 777-2972

Webster University
US Naval Hospital
(843) 524-1851





CHURCHES

Religion remains important in the South, and here you will find a church, chapel, praise house or synagogue almost anywhere the eye may roam. Primarily Protestant, the choices include every denomination and range from small historic structures to large modern churches with hundreds in the congregation. More than 60 choices are available and welcome newcomers with typical Southern hospitality. Church-sponsored tours and activities are also a center of frequent community activities.

MILITARY

Beaufort and Port Royal are proud to host three military bases, and more than 17,000 active duty military members and their families live and work in the area.

In Port Royal, the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island transforms 20,000 recruits a year into Marines, while the Naval Hospital meets the medical needs of the area's Marines and sailors, their families, and the many military retirees who call the Lowcountry home.

A fascinating Parris Island museum traces area and military history, and guided tours of the base are available. Visitors also may thrill to the color and precision of graduation ceremonies, which are conducted almost every Friday year-round.

The Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort is home to Marine Aircraft Group-31, one of the world's largest aircraft groups.

Attractions on the Naval Hospital grounds include Naval Heritage Park with giant oaks, and the tabby – seashell and mortar – ruins of Fort Frederick, built in 1732.

The U.S. military is the county's largest employer, with troops at Parris Island Marine Recruit Training Base, the U.S. Naval Hospital and the Marine Corps Air Station. Many officers who spent time here come back to retire. Some activities at Parris Island are open to civilians.





MARINAS

Dataw Island Marina 100 Marina Drive, St Helena Island	(843) 838-8410
Downtown Marina of Beaufort 1006 Bay Street, Beaufort	(843) 524-4422
Fripp Island Marina 875 Bonito Road, Fripp Island	(843) 838-1517
Lady's Island Marina 73 Sea Island Pkwy, Lady's Island	(843) 522-0430
Port Royal Dry Stack Marina 502 London Ave, Port Royal	(843) 525-0510
Port Royal Landing Marina One Landing Drive, Port Royal	(843) 525-6664
Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club www.bysc.net , Lady's Island	(843) 522-8216

HOTELS

The Beaufort Inn	(843) 379-4667
The Sea Island Best Western	(843) 522-2090
Country Inn and Suites	(843) 379-4000
Port Royal Days Inn	(843) 524-1551
Hampton Inn	(843) 986-0600
Holiday Inn and Suites Hotel	(843) 379-3100
Magnolia Court Guest Suites	(843) 524-6100
Ramada Limited Beaufort	(843) 524-2144
Rhett House Inn	(843) 524-9030
Super 8 Motel	



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

SCE&G Electric and Gas:	(800) 251-7234
BJWSA Water and Sewer:	(843) 987-9200
Embarq Phone/Internet:	(866) 304-6820
Hargray Cable/Phone/Internet:	(800) 800-7988
Direct TV:	(888) 777-2454
Dish Network:	(888) 397-3474
Lowcountry Sanitation:	(843) 838-4503
Waste Management:	(843) 987-0710
Drivers License:	(843) 524-1385
Voter Registration:	(843) 470-3751
Public Library:	(843) 525-4000
Beaufort Memorial Hospital:	(843) 522-5200
Arts Council of Beaufort:	(843) 379-2787
Beaufort Performing Arts:	(843) 521-4145
Beaufort County Sheriff:	(843) 524-2777
State Highway Patrol:	(843) 524-6187