

THOROUGHBRED COUNTRY SOUTH CAROLINA



Camping



Unique Sites



Charming Downtowns

Charming towns with museums that display local history; small main street businesses with antiques and uniques; lanes lined with live oak trees and decorated with Spanish moss; nationally-known artists; picturesque rivers; cotton, peach, watermelon and grain farms; historic plantation homes, churches and cemeteries, unique cultural communities and natural attractions ... all come together to give you a true picture of the South of yesteryear and of today.

Welcome to Thoroughbred Country, South Carolina.

We're Way More Than Horses!

www.tbredcountry.org



Scenic Rivers



Historic Churches



Roadside Scenery

Day 1

Enjoy downtown Aiken. The City grew up along the Charleston-Hamburg Railway. As Aiken became a bustling railroad town, it began to draw wealthy Northerners and Charlestonians during the winter months. Surrounded by a one of a kind parkway system and bordered by beautiful beds of flowers, this area offers unique dining and shopping choices. Make sure to stop downtown for unique shops and restaurants. Motor coach restrictions apply.



Did you know... the Aiken Trolley leaves from the Aiken Depot on Saturdays at 10:00 am for a guided tour of town that includes a walk through Hopelands Gardens (weather permitting). Reservations are a must and a fee is charged. Call 1-888-AikenSC to reserve your place today.



Explore the Aiken County Historical Museum. The Museum is located in Banksia, one of only two Winter Colony mansions open to the public. Three floors of exhibits tell the story of the Aiken area from past to present including the present day mission of the Savannah River Site. The grounds house the Transit of Venus Observatory structure, a circa 1808 log home and an 1890's one room schoolhouse. Motor coach restrictions apply.

Did you know... admission to this grand treasure is free!

Finish the day with a picnic and paddle on the Edisto River canoe trail at Aiken State Park. The Edisto River is North America's longest free flowing blackwater river. **Did you know... canoes are available for rent with advanced notice. Campsites are also available year round. Call the park at (803) 649-2857 for more information.**



Mark your calendar...

Be sure to check out these special events while you're in town!

Christmas in Hopelands: December 10th & 11th, 15th-23rd & 26th from 6:00-9:00 pm. Each year, the City of Aiken spreads Christmas joy with the presentation of a night-time journey through Hopelands Garden which is lit by over 100,000 lights. Call (803) 642-7631 for more information.

Antiques in the Heart of Aiken: February 3rd-5th at the Aiken Center for the Arts. This antiques show offers a unique opportunity to view and purchase fine antiques of all varieties from across the nation. Specialists will be on hand to give free estimates and advice for restoration of antiques. Tickets for this event are \$8.00 per person. Visit aikencenterforthearts.org or call (803) 641-9094 for more information.

Day 2

Travel to North Augusta's Living History Park. At the park entrance, stroll the accessible Sensory Garden. During the year, the park hosts several FREE special events where colonial life can be experienced firsthand. Explore the meeting house, barn, backwoods cabin, smoke house, blacksmith forge stage and tavern all in a Colonial setting. **Did you know... the park is also a geocaching site.**



Stop at the Beech Island Historical Society Visitors and History Center. The center is located in a renovated country store that tells the history of the Beech Island area. Beech Island is one of the oldest settlements in South Carolina. Indian trading paths, Fort Moore and Swiss settlers are a few of the things you'll learn about here.



Plan to visit Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site in Beech Island. This 1850 Greek revival antebellum mansion was the home of SC Governor James Henry Hammond. The house was held by the Hammond family through four generations then donated to the State Park Service in 1975. It is complete with furniture, decorative arts and artwork from the various periods. The grounds include interpretive slave quarters. **Did you know... house tours are held on the hour Thursday through Monday at 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm. A fee is charged. Call the Site at (803) 827-1473 for more information about tour times and special events.**

Go birding at the Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary located on the Savannah River in Jackson. Silver Bluff is a 3,154 acre wildlife sanctuary owned by the National Audubon Society. They have over 200 species on their checklist. See if you can find them all! **Did you know... the Sanctuary now offers educational programs and tours for groups of all ages! Contact the Director at (803) 471-0291 for more information.**

Treat yourself to dinner and spend the remainder of your evening star-gazing at the DuPont Planetarium or enjoying a live performance event. A night's rest can be found at one of the many historic inns.



Mark your calendar...

A Holiday Evening at Redcliffe: November 26th from 5:30-7:30 pm.

An informal open house is the perfect way to see Redcliffe decorated for the holidays. Enjoy refreshments on the porch before touring the home at your leisure. Staff will be on hand to provide informal interpretation. \$10/adult, \$7.50/SC Seniors and Ages 6-16. Call the park for more information.

Battle of Aiken: February 25th-26th, 2012 at the Confederate Memorial park.

Join us for the 18th Annual Battle Reenactment for the Battle of Aiken. See the battle, walk through the camps and speak with the soldiers. Visit www.battleofaiken.org for more information.

Day 3

After breakfast, travel east along US 78, the Discovery Route for the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC). As you travel you will notice the rail bed that is still evident in many of the small towns. These towns grew up along the Charleston-Hamburg Railway - the first commercial railway in America and the longest commercial railway in the world at the time. Make a stop at the Williston Museum, view local exhibits and discover why Williston was the Asparagus Capital of the World. The museum is open Tues & Thurs 2:00-4:00 pm or by appointment.



Continue to Blackville to learn about Mennonite history and culture. Enjoy lunch at Miller's Bread Basket restaurant. Miller's is a popular stop and offers Pennsylvania Dutch with a Southern touch fare. No meal is complete without a slice of homemade bread or pie. **Did you know... we suggest you order the shoo-fly pie, a local favorite.**



Detour three miles north of Blackville to the Healing Springs. Indians believed in the springs' natural healing powers and brought wounded Revolutionary War soldiers here to drink. You can also take a walking tour of Blackville. Contact Blackville Historical Tours for more information. **Did you know... the Healing Springs Country Store sells sterilized jugs so you can take home some of the healing water. Stop in and check out their**

selection of local goods.

Follow the history of the Charleston-Hamburg Railway to Denmark. Shop for quality antiques in an elegant setting at The Caroline Collection. This historic AT&T building houses three full floors. The Jim Harrison Gallery affords opportunities for the viewer to take a walk down memory lane to a kinder, gentler time. **Did you know... Nelson's Wee Bake Bakery is just up the road from the gallery on main street- walk in for a variety of Mennonite treats.**



The 1830's South Carolina Canal and Railroad bed that carried the first steam engine, The Best Friend, runs through the middle of Bamberg's Historic District. Travel south to Ehrhardt (on US 601) for an overnight stay at a local bed and breakfast where you will hear stories of the community's German heritage. **Did you know... the Bamberg Post Office boasts a 6'x12' mural titled "Cotton the World Over". It can be found right in the lobby and is worth stopping for.**

Did you know...

The Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition is a field program where members of the public can register for a week and help excavate one of North America's most ancient archaeological sites associated with several prehistoric chert quarries. The expedition takes place in May. Not going to be here in May? That's okay! Stop by USC- Salkehatchie's Campus in Allendale to view an exhibit that contains artifacts, information and photographs from the Topper Site dig.

Visit <http://allendale-expedition.net/> for more information about the site, recent articles and to find out how you can get involved.

Day 4

Begin your day with a visit to Rivers Bridge State Historic Site outside of Ehrhardt. Rivers Bridge is a 390 acre Civil War battlefield managed by the State Park Service. The site includes the self-guided battlefield interpretive trail and memorial grounds. It was here that a small band of Confederate soldiers in field fortifications opposed the advance of Sherman's army. The well-preserved earthen fortifications are the centerpiece of this important battlefield landscape. **Did you know... Rivers Bridge also preserves and interprets the Memorial Grounds where Confederate dead from that two-day struggle are interred. Ranger-guided tours are available upon request. Call the park at (803) 267-3675 for more information.**



Continue down highway 301 to Allendale and shop at the Salkehatchie Arts Center. The center exhibits and sells various types of art from over 65 local artisans. The center is closed on Sunday and Monday, so be sure to plan accordingly. **Did you know... Salkehatchie Stew is a home-cooked series of local plays and storytelling. Visit their website at www.salkehatchiestew.com for the current show schedule.**

Grab a sandwich and travel to Barnwell for history and shopping on the Circle. Be sure to check the time at the unique vertical sundial. Legend has it this is the only vertical sundial in the United States and it keeps within two minutes of standard time. Visit the Barnwell County Museum in the historic Fuller House or The Little Red Barn Pottery and Art Gallery to shop for pottery and nature photography before enjoying dinner. Check out the schedule for the Circle Theater for evening performances.



Grab your fishing pole, pull up a chair and spend the night in one of the cabins at Barnwell State Park or bring your own horse and enjoy horse camping around the fire at Lakeview Plantation or Broxton Bridge Plantation. **Did you know... there are special overnight trail rides happening throughout the year. Visit www.lakeviewplantation.com and www.broxtonbridge.com for more information.**



Mark your calendar...

Holiday Artisans Mart: November 25th-26th at the Little Red Barn Gallery

Join the Little Red Barn from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm for a special artisans mart! Find great gifts for everyone on your list made by South Carolina artists and artisans.

River's Bridge State Historic Site Guided Tour: November 5th and December 3rd at 2:00 pm.

Join a park interpreter for a guided tour of River's Bridge battlefield. Hear stories about the effects of the battle on the people and the state, see demonstrations of Civil War equipment and examine the still intact fortifications. \$5/adult, \$3/Ages 6-16.



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THOROUGHBRED
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