

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF VACATION, THEY PICTURE RELAXING ON AN EXPANSIVE BEACH, SIPPING SOME SWEET TEA AND LETTING THE DAY GO BY WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD. THEY WANT TO UNWIND... CATCH UP ON THEIR SLEEP...DO NOTHING. THEN THERE ARE THE OTHERS.

COOLING OFF IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

By Angela Yates

You know the type--those who don't want to waste a moment. Instead of lounging, we want to be ripping through waves, leaving everyone else in our wake. We want to experience the beauty of nature. We want the thrill of adventure. We want the waters of the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Along the Eastern coastline of the state lies a water-lover's paradise, perfect for energetic vacationers. There's plenty to fulfill our need for speed, fun and excitement all while being surrounded by South Carolina's natural beauty.

There is really nowhere else like South Carolina's coast. The marshes, alive with tiny inhabitants and marsh-dwelling birds like the snowy-white egret and blue heron. The cypress swamps, where the bald trees jut out of the waters like tall pillars, leaving the glassy surface undisturbed by their intrusion. And who could forget the rolling waters of the Atlantic Ocean? These are only a few of the reasons for vacationers to get

up off their lounge chairs and into a kayak.

To experience all this and more, head to Palm Key Nature Resort, located just outside Bluffton. At Palm Key, a professional guide can take you through secluded swamps and marshes or you can paddle out on your own for an unguided tour.

Or maybe you're looking for something with a little more speed. Then H2O Sports is the place for you. They offer wave runner rentals, water skiing and parasailing at their shop in Hilton Head Island's Harbour Town Marina. Patrons can cut through the ocean waves on a wave runner or give water skiing a try. And for those not afraid of heights, parasailing is the way to go. Catch an aerial view of Hilton Head Island while soaring 400 feet above the blue ocean waters. On a clear day, those brave enough to ride can see up to 20 miles out. And the best part—you can bring along a co-pilot to share the scenery.

Still not satisfied? Well, maybe

a deep sea fishing trip will fulfill your need for adventure. Take a chartered expedition from Bonanza Sportfishing, and you'll be at the helm of the adventure of a lifetime. They offer everything from half-day trips to overnight Gulf Stream charters, but no matter what you choose, you'll ride the waves in a deep sea fishing boat and reel in some tasty treats right out of the Atlantic. Everything from mackerel to grouper, sailfish to shark—you'll have the chance to catch them all. And the best part—they'll clean your catch and recommend restaurants that will cook your fresh-caught fish for dinner.

Whether you're paddling slow and steady in a kayak or drifting high above on a parasail, the daredevil in you is sure to find something suitable for that thrill-seeking itch. So come on down to South Carolina's Lowcountry for some fun in the sun... and in the water.

Find out more...

Palm Key Nature Tours

www.palmkey.com

H2O Sports

www.h2osportsonline.com

Bonanza Sportfishing

www.bonanzasportfishing.com

