



Don't Miss This

By Gwen Thurmond

Even if you think you've seen it all, there's always something exciting, different or new in South Carolina. Don your Colonial hat and sail into the 17th century at Charles Towne Landing, cower from the Cobra at Carowinds, watch otters dive at Brookgreen Gardens, see Columbia's city lights from the rooftop bar at the Sheraton Hotel—all must-sees in the Palmetto State.



ADVENTURE SAILS INTO CHARLESTON

The *Adventure* sailed into Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site in Charleston, SC, in October 2008. The new replica of the 17th-century trading ketch replaces the original *Adventure* that succumbed to natural elements after more than 30 years docked at the spot of the Carolinas' first permanent English settlement. The 73-foot-long ship is used as a floating classroom to help tell the story of how English settlers, Native Americans and enslaved Africans built the plantation economy of the American South. »

ROLLER COASTER THRILLS AT CAROWINDS

A new scream machine debuted in 2009 at Carowinds Amusement & Water Park in Fort Mill, SC. Carolina Cobra, the 12th park coaster, stands 125 feet tall. Riders are pulled up a steep lift hill, then sent careening down a 120-foot drop, speeding along a 65-degree descent into three inversions that include a cobra roll and a 360-degree loop. Then it is caught by another lift, and towed to the top to do it all again—this time in reverse.



PRISTINELY BEAUTIFUL BOTANY BAY

In 1977, the state of South Carolina received 4,630 acres of coastal beauty on Edisto Island. In 2008, this pristine gift reopened to the public. With access only by foot, bicycle or kayak, the area is sure to maintain much of its primitive beauty and continue to be the home to hundreds of wildlife species. Several of the original buildings from Bleak Hall and Sea Cloud plantations remain. Find out more at dnr.sc.gov/managed/wild/botany/description.html.



FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY AT EDVENTURE

Hundreds of butterflies flit from plant to plant, a brook tumbles nearby, and you can completely forget you're in the midst of the city. It's the 2,500-square-foot Blooming Butterflies in the EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, SC. The greenhouse-like structure houses native and subtropical plants and trees, and supports dozens of different species as well as hundreds of free-flying butterflies. Focusing on hands-on learning, the exhibit is just a part of one of the nation's largest children's museums.



BROOKGREEN GARDENS' RIVER BASIN RETREAT

Brookgreen Gardens Lowcountry Zoo in Murrells Inlet, SC, now houses two otters in a River Basin Retreat—an 8,000-gallon aboveground pool of clear acrylic panels. The exhibit is the first phase of Brookgreen's new master plan for the zoo, which eventually will add black bears, pumas, red wolves, bobcats, small mammals and reptiles. **T**

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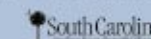


Big Fun. Big Place.

Discover the joy of learning at one of the nation's largest children's museums.

EdVenture  children's museum

211 Gervais Street | Columbia, South Carolina
 Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00, Sunday 12:00 - 5:00pm
 Open Mondays Memorial Day through Labor Day
 803-779-3100 www.edventure.org



THE SHERATON IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA

Guests enjoy the sights and sounds of Columbia from the rooftop of the Capital City's newest hotel. Housed in the (c. 1913) Palmetto Building, the Sheraton Hotel offers a touch of history with modern comfort in 18 stories, 135 guest rooms, four bars (including a rooftop bar), a gourmet restaurant and a Starbucks in the lobby. The city's first highrise, the Palmetto Building is an excellent example of early 20th-century skyscrapers sheathed in Gothic Revival detail featuring the palmetto tree motif.

