One of the most striking views is along the coast, on a course mostly just a few feet above sea level: the par three 14th hole at Grande Dunes Golf Course in Myrtle Beach.

“You're already about 50 feet above the Intracoastal Waterway on a bluff, and then there's a 60-foot drop from the tee to the green, so you really get quite a dramatic view from up there,” says Mike Buccerone, the general manager of golf at Grande Dunes.

That view takes in the waterway, of course, along with a good look at Grande Dunes Marina Village, a centerpiece of the Mediterranean-inspired architecture at the big resort complex with its storefronts, boardwalk, yacht-filled docks, and eye-catching inn and bridge.

Meanwhile, golfers can get even closer to sea level and find themselves playing sand shots from the beach itself. One such opportunity is the famed Links Course at Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms across the harbor from Charleston.

“The final two holes are the best of their kind in the world, with the ocean bordering the whole left side of the fairway, especially on our 412-yard, par four 17th. Hit it left and you’re on the beach,” says Jeff Minton, director of sports at Wild Dunes.

Considered a lateral hazard, you can take a whack at it if you can get down there. “At high tide, the water can be pretty much right up to the edge on No. 18, a 500-yard par five,” Minton says.

Of course, one of the most famous views on a public golf course in South Carolina is the lighthouse at Harbour Town Golf Links (home of the Verizon Heritage each week after the Masters) on Hilton Head Island. If you feel a bit overwhelmed when walking up the fairway on No.18 at Harbour Town, you’re not alone, even if you hit one into the seaside marsh protecting the approach.

“Even the pros tell us that it can be hard to concentrate, the scenery is so dramatic, with the marsh and the sound and the islands you can see out in the ocean, the pelicans and sometimes bald eagles… it’s really absolutely gorgeous,” said John Farrell, head pro at Harbour Town.

No matter which course you play, in the Palmetto State you’re guaranteed a great game of golf and a setting on par with the best of them.