RVers Find Variety at South Carolina’s State Parks

By Lynn Seldon

It started with tent camping. However, as we aged, the earth beneath us grew increasingly hard and eventually gave way to an air mattress then finally to a new RV. We started by researching the park system on its website—www.SouthCarolinaParks.com—and found more than 3,000 RV-friendly campsites at over 30 parks across the state. Then with a new Winnebago Outlook 27L, a “Class C” motor home, we set out to discover all that South Carolina’s State Parks have to offer. Our next stop was south of Charleston at Edisto Beach State Park. Edisto Island is a classic Lowcountry getaway. Edisto Beach State Park offers 110 RV sites and one and one-half miles of beachfront laden with shells. RV sites are just seconds from the maritime forest and acres of salt marsh. An interpretive center adds to the adventure of this natural, beautiful spot. Hunting Island State Park near Beaufort is also ideal for nature-loving RVers. Over 3,000 acres of salt marsh, four miles of beach, a lagoon and such unexpected treasures as seahorses, barracuda, loggerhead turtles and hundreds of species of birds make this island paradise. At the park, adjacent to Kings Mountain National Military Park, we learned more of the pivotal battle fought here in 1780 that turned the Revolutionary War in favor of the Patriots. A visit to the Living History Farm makes it easy to imagine the difficult lives of those pioneers. With its incredible 35 miles of trails, the site is also popular for hiking or horseback riding. From Kings Mountain we headed to the South Carolina Upcountry where we quite simply fell in love with the foothills and mountains. Thanks to a string of state parks just off the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Highway (SC 1), we found park after park that perfectly suited our RV style. We chose Oconee State Park with its great hiking trails and waterfalls as our base. RV sites are near the lake and the trailhead for the 85-mile Foothills Trail. From here we visited Devils Fork State Park on pearl Lake Jocassee and Table Rock State Park with its trademark rock towering over our RV. Both parks offered RV camping in the cool, wooded mountains. Sadly we ran out of time before we ran out of parks. We still had dozens to discover in our comfortable rolling home. But, we’re already making plans for our next RV trip to South Carolina State Parks. We can’t wait!