



# The Island Tour.

By Joquita Burka

**Deep, exotic blackwaters. Wide sandy beaches. Acres of marshland. Hidden inlets. Richly historic locations. And waters replete with fish. There’s so very much to do and so very little time. Why not hop on a tour?**

The Lowcountry & Resort Islands is an area stretching up the coast of South Carolina from the Savannah River to the Edisto River and inland for approximately 60 miles. Encompassing some of the most pristine natural areas in the country alongside stunningly preserved historic towns, this area offers guests the perfect blend of options, and to serve that variety, tours for every interest, timeframe, preferred mode of transportation and budget. Consider a tour as a great way to maximize your Lowcountry time while enjoying the benefit of travelling with the “experts.” Here is just a taste of all the region has to offer.

Photo courtesy of the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce.



**Along for the ride.** If you enjoy the camaraderie of others, why not join a group tour? There are a number of dinner, sunset and dolphin-watching cruises out of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort and Bluffton.

Calibogue Cruises offers a look at both the cultural and historical beauty of Daufuskie Island. You can even add on a Lowcountry Boil (cookout) and a concert by the famous Hallelujah Singers.

In historic Beaufort, a horse and buggy may be your preferred method of touring. Southern

Rose Buggy Tours leaves the Waterfront Park area downtown to traverse streets that may look familiar for their starring roles in some 17 movies.

**Put on your walking shoes.** Beautiful, historic Beaufort is ideal for walking, and that’s just what most people do. Join a group at The Spirit of Old Beaufort Tour Center and Gift Shop or revel in the tales of Jon Sharp on his Walking History Tour. Or, you could stop by the Visitors’ Center for a map to create your own self-guided tour.



**Paddle your own kayak.** The area is called the ACE Basin, an acronym for the Ashepoo, Combahee and South Edisto area, 350,000 acres of diverse habitats, one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast. Here are protected uplands and wetlands, tidal marshes, barrier islands and beaches, and wildlife including many endangered and threatened species. The area was “green” before “green” was cool. And it makes for an awesome area to tour.

One great way to explore the ACE Basin rivers is by kayak. Float with the dolphins and paddle with the experts on Native Guide Tours out of Bluffton. Or, just north, try the inclusive Palm Key Resort which offers cabins and packages with blackwater or saltwater kayaking.

Carolina Heritage Outfitters (Canadys, SC) will guide you—or simply outfit your trip—on the Edisto River blackwaters. When you tire of paddling why not climb up into one of their tree houses and stay for the night? The cozy cabins are literally perched in trees over the bank of a private river area.



**For the sport of it.** Hilton Head Island, Edisto Island and Beaufort are home to great sportfishing, and you can find willing and knowledgeable captains available to guide you. Runaway Fishing Charters on Hilton Head Island offers half- and full-day charters. Captain Eddie leaves from Fripp Island and Aqua Sports departs Beaufort.

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Lowcountry & Resort Islands  
Tours, page 94



South Carolina's

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