

USA Travel Magazine

Fall Edition 2009

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Historic Treasures

*This Issue Is Dedicated To:
The Characters
Of The Keys*

USA Travel Magazine

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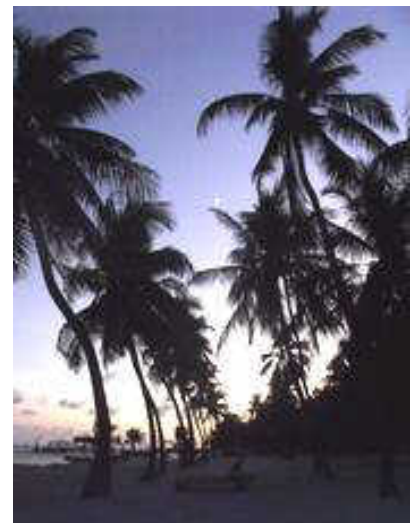
Fall is the ideal time to get out with family and friends and enjoy local festivals across the country side. Wherever you go we hope you discover that there are many intriguing and often overlooked destinations that express the heart of our nation. These are the destinations that continue to surprise us and remain memorable moments of our trips!

Characters Of The Keys



While travelling through the Keys, from the beginning to the end, we spotted this bumper sticker that stated: "All people are created equal members of ONE HUMAN FAMILY". It wasn't long before we realized that this was the philosophy of those we met.

The Keys are home to many Characters, who shared their stories with us on our trip. We dedicate this issue to all of the Characters of the Keys, who inspired us with their passion to make a difference in the lives of others and preserve the history and natural treasures of the Keys.



We hope you have the opportunity to share a moment with these Characters on your trip to the Keys!

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Preserving The History Of The Keys

Planning a trip to the Florida Keys? The next question may be how to get there. Many options are available: you can book a cruise, fly in, or you can drive and experience the Characters of the Keys. The latter is our choice if you want to truly experience the Characters of the Keys!



[Photo Credits Belinda Serata & The Monroe County Tourist Development Council.](#)

There's no question that the Florida Keys are unique. If you only have a week for a getaway it can be a challenge to decide what to do.

Yet, if you want to really enjoy what it's like to live and breathe the Keys then take the time to drive. This gives you a chance to experience life as the Characters of the Keys do. And, if you do drive, then you'll find that each section or Key represents a new experience that embraces you and leaves a lasting and memorable impression.

Among the many people who call the Keys home is **Harriet Stokes**, who owns the beautiful Largo Lodge. You'll find the seven units have a classic charm mixed with Art Deco that offers a tranquil setting that is perfect for a Florida getaway.

Harriet bought the property in the late 1960's, when the area was lush and primitive, and remembers a time when there was very little traffic. Yet this is what makes the Keys a amazing place to visit; those who call it home embrace the changes as they do the weather; one day at a time.

The Largo Lodge is located at 101740 Overseas Highway in Key Largo, FL. If you plan to visit, say hello to Harriet and she may share one of her wonderful stories about the history of the area!

Speaking of stories to share, another Characters of the Keys is **Irving R. Eyster**, and his wife, Jeane, who have lived in the area for almost 60 years. Irvine has helped keep the history of Indian Key alive through dedication and services to his community.



Look into his eyes as he recalls living here with his family and you can see Irving has a love for the Keys!

To explore the history of the Keys you can read one of Eyster's numerous books on the Keys that include "Indian Key," "Handbook of South Florida Archaeology," "Islamorada and More" as well as a dedication to the gentleman who inspired his love for the Keys, "Dr. Jeremiah Reade Explores Florida in 1882-1883."

Irving and his family are preserving his memories and have plans to create a museum dedicated to his beloved home. As a traveller, you can help preserve the beauty and history of the Keys by sharing your experience with friends and family.

Learn more about the Florida Keys history by calling (305) 664-9504 or visit FloridaKeysHistorian.com.

Preserving The Natural Beauty Of The Keys

Located at 93600 Overseas Highway in Tavernier in the Keys is the **Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center**. It is here you can meet many of beautiful birds that are being cared for after they have been injured in the wild. This is also where birds like this Pelican and other wildlife flock to when they cannot find enough food in the wetlands.



When you arrive at mile marker 93.6 where the Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center is located you'll meet the staff of volunteers who are dedicated to providing emergency and recuperative care for injured birds.

When it began, the Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center was much smaller, and then more and more birds needed help. Now that the Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center has a larger space it also has many more birds and wildlife to care for as well.

This natural setting gives you a clear glimpse of what most of the Keys looked like at one time. There are many species of birds, as well as crabs and fish who call the Sanctuary home. While visiting we hope you can meet **Laura Quinn**, who has been nicknamed the "bird lady", She is very kind and passionate about protecting all wildlife!

Laura and her staff also explained that many birds are injured by fishermen, who often accidentally catch a bird as well as fish on their hook. There are moments when the hook can be carefully removed, other times part of the wing may need to be removed. In these cases, Laura and her staff are on-hand, and equipped to save the birds life!

Every Little Bit Helps

The Florida Keys Wild Bird Sanctuary relies on the kind donations of visitors like you to help save and treat these beautiful creatures. They are also in need of medical supplies, and in the case of saving a life of a wounded bird or animal, every donation helps, no matter how small.

The donation recommendation for a tour is \$2.00 per child, \$3.00 per adult.

To help support the Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center and plan your visit call 305-852-4486 or send an email to fkwbc@terranova.net or visit their website: www.fkwbc.org to learn more about how you can help.

Dolphins are a attraction for some who visit Florida. For others, like Mandy Rodriguez and his staff at **Dolphin Research Center**, located at Mile Marker 59 - 58901 Overseas Highway in Grassy Key, Florida, these mammals offer insight into natures beauty that is often overlooked.

Mandy and his staff use entertaining programs to educate visitors about the

Dolphins and how we can help preserve their home - the ocean. Education programs also include the DolphinLab or Dolphin Camp that assist students from around the globe, who are interested in various fields, including Environmental Studies.



During your visit to the Dolphin Research Center you can swim with the Dolphins, meet sea lions, and enjoy a memorable time with family and friends exploring the life of these amazing marine mammals.

One interesting fact about the Dolphin Research Center that often goes overlooked is that the Dolphins can leave any time they want. Their homes are designed so they can leave if they choose. This is their home though, and they share a special bond with Mandy.

When speaking to Mandy you'll soon realize there's more to these beautiful creatures than showing off, which they love to do. And, by learning more about the Dolphins and other sea life we also learn more about ourselves!

To learn more and plan a visit to the Dolphin Research Center call (305) 289-1121 or visit www.dolphins.org.

Preserving The Natural Beauty Of The Keys Continued...

As we continued our journey from one Key to the next we found ourselves thinking about how much work and dedication it takes to care for injured animals. For these Characters of the Keys, this is their life's passion - not a job as we found out when visiting the **Turtle Hospital** not far away in Marathon at 2396 Overseas Hwy - Mile Marker 48.5.



We also learned the impact we have on nature can be devastating, which is the case with many of the seaturtles and other sea life that live in and around Florida and beyond.

When you take a tour of the Turtle Hospital you'll learn how Richie purchased the Buena Vista Motel in 1984. It was not long before he put a tarpon in the motel's saltwater swimming pool, which as you can imagine would be a surprise for anyone who wanted to take a dip in the pool. Soon, Richie added more marine life that included a snook, lobsters, sawfish, eels, and Goliath grouper, and then eventually lead to the creation of the sea turtle rehabilitation center.

The Turtle Hospital treats four species of sea turtles, which include the Loggerhead, Green, Hawksbill, and Kemp's Ridley's.

Just like Laura and Mandy, Richie receives numerous sick or injured turtles each year. Many of these injuries are caused by the turtle being hit by boats or ingesting fishing lines or plastic bags. It seem turtles have a habit of eating just about anything, so be careful to dispose of your fishing line in a trash bin and not throw it overboard or along the coast when fishing.

The saddest part of visiting these animal centers is that many of the injuries can be prevented if we as humans take the time to think before we act. While we enjoy the ocean for recreation, these creatures call it home, and the pollution and loss of habitat in our world is hard to get back once it's gone.

If you have a chance to visit the Turtle Hospital you'll enjoy the beauty of these wonderful sea creatures. The Turtle Hospital also offers educational programs and special tours. To learn more about visiting the Turtle Hospital go to www.turtlehospital.org.



Located in the heart of "old town" Key West is Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden; a warm and welcoming piece of paradise. Here, you'll find a woman who speaks on behalf of the land. Nancy Forrester is passionate and insightful. She looks beyond the ordinary, and hopes we do the

same, and then are inspired to unite together and save our mother earth.

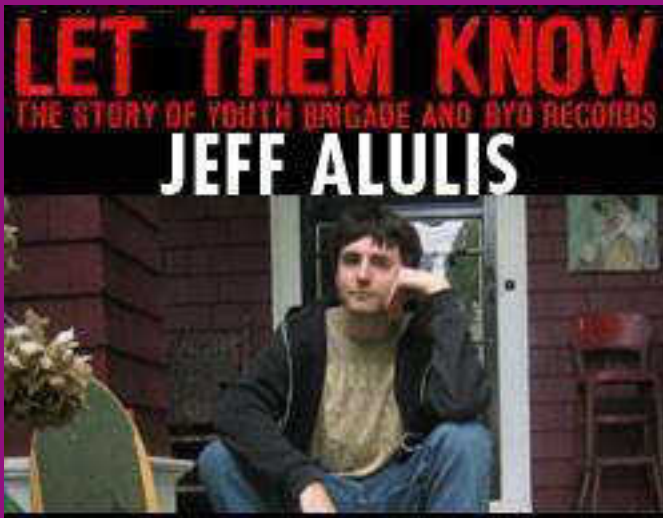
She has dedicated her life to caring for and preserving the one wooded acre of earth under her care. This can be a difficult task, requiring enormous amounts of time and money. Like the other Characters of the Keys, Nancy needs help to preserve that which she loves for future generations.

Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden is located at One Free School Lane just off the 500 block Simonton Street in Key West, Florida. It is open from 10-5pm daily. Admission is \$10, and funds go to help preserve the garden and all of the wildlife that call this beautiful space home. To learn how you can assist in preserving the Secret Garden call 305-294-0015 or visit www.nfsgarden.com.

Protecting nature and her children is not a passing fancy for these Characters of the Keys. We hope you have the same opportunity to visit them, listen to their stories, and be inspired by their dedication!

This is just a sampling of the many Characters we met while touring the Florida Keys. Check back soon as we continue our journey.

With so much to see and do in the Florida Keys you might wonder where to begin when planning your trip? The best place to start is by visiting www.fla-keys.com, where you can learn about lodging and dining options as well as discover many of the Characters of the Keys that make it such a memorable destination.



The Capri Theatre Presents: Let Them Know - A Document of the West Coast Punk Rock Movement

By Melody Schubert

The Capri Theatre, Montgomery's only independent cinema welcomes "Let Them Know: The Story of Youth Brigade and BYO Records" in Mid September.



As part of the Southern Arts Federation's Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, guests will also have the opportunity for a discussion with Director Jeff Alulis, who will speak about the film and his work as a filmmaker following a screening of his documentary.

Raised in California, I watched the rise of the Punk scene take a firm grip. We were ready to take our music to the next level, and Punk Rock opened a new door. While Elvis rocked the previous

generation, Punk Rock gave us a hard cutting, intense edge to dive off, and there was no looking back. America's youth had a new voice - and it was loud, and in your face!

In this film, Director Jeff Alulis takes us behind the scenes of Punk Rock and back to a time when the Better Youth Organization was founded by Canadian brothers Shawn and Mark Stern of the influential L.A. punk band Youth Brigade; part political movement and part business venture.

Just teenagers at the time, Shawn, Mark, and the BYO crew found a way to organize punks to take positive action to help sustain their scene and way of life. They helped countless bands put on shows, they were instrumental in the creation of the landmark punk documentary "Another State of Mind," and they started BYO Records, which remains one of the oldest surviving independent punk rock labels in the world.

Graduating from USC's prestigious Graduate Screenwriting Program in 2002, Director Jeff Alulis includes interviews with Ian MacKaye (Fugazi, Minor Threat, founder of Dischord Records), Fat Mike (NOFX, Me First & The Gimme Gimmes, founder of Fat Wreck Chords), Matt Skiba (Alkaline Trio).

Other interviews featured in his film "Let Them Know: The Story of Youth Brigade and BYO Records" are Gary Tovar (founder of Goldenvoice Promotions), Brendan Mullen (founder of The Masque Club, author of "Lexicon Devil: The Fast Times and Short Life of Darby Crash and The Germs"), members of The Bouncing Souls, Swingin' Utters, 7 Seconds, and many others involved in the So Cal Punk Scene.

Look for more exciting Independent Films and events at Montgomery's Capri Theatre!

CAPRI THEATRE

1045 E Fairview Ave
Montgomery, AL
334.262.4858
www.capritheatre.org

Photo Credits: Director Jeff Alulis

Ain't Nothing Like 'Em Nowhere!

By Melody Schubert

Add a cold beer or cola with sampling of pulled pork, finger licking ribs, old fashioned potatoe salad, and you have a feast that will leave you craving for more.

John "Big Daddy" Bishop opened the Dreamland Café in 1958, since then it has become a southern favorite. It's no wonder; for 50 years Dreamland BBQ has brought the idea of a picnic indoors where you can enjoy Big Daddy's ribs, drenched in his secret recipe, and share a fantastic evening with family and friends.

On this warm Montgomery evening we danced to a soulful beat and enjoyed delicious ribs with our large group of friends. We had plenty of menu choices besides ribs at Dreamland, which included bar-b-que'd chicken, hickory smoked sausage, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, house salads served with our own BBQ house dressing and a true Southern favorite for dessert, banana pudding. By the end of the evening we were stuffed!

Gather your family & friends together and savor a taste of Montgomery, Alabama's best BBQ at Dreamland!



Bring It Home

Ready to bring home a taste of Dreamland's southern sensations? Try this recipe or check out their website where you'll find other classics that will make your meal memorable!

Barbecued Brisket:

1 (4-pound) beef brisket, 1 teaspoon lemon pepper, 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 (1-ounce) package dried onion soup mix, 1 cup baby cut carrots, 1 onion, quartered, 2 cups water, 2 1/2 cups Dreamland Bar-B-Que Sauce

1. Place brisket in a large Dutch oven. Sprinkle with lemon pepper, garlic powder and onion soup mix. Arrange carrots and onion evenly around brisket. Pour water around sides of pan and pour barbecue sauce evenly over brisket and carrots.

2. Bake, covered, at 300°F for 2 1/2 to 3 hours, basting occasionally with sauce. Remove from oven, and let brisket

stand in pan, uncovered 20 minutes. Remove from pan and cut into thin slices. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Calories 413; Fat 16g (sat 5.5g); Protein 40g; Carbohydrate 15g; Fiber 0.8g; Cholesterol 155mg; Sodium 854mg

If you haven't had enough of Dreamland's legendary ribs and sauce that has made it famous since 1958 have it delivered right to your door. Dreamland ships their USDA inspected ribs and sauce most anywhere. Just visit their website or call 1-800-752-0544 for ordering details.

www.dreamlandbbq.com

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Dreamland BBQ

Arkansas Fall Festivals

By Iris Dean

Throughout the year in Arkansas there are very few weekends when a festival is not taking place somewhere in the state. From the majestic mountains to the Great River Road, Arkansas has plenty of outdoor recreation and events to create a memorable getaway. Here we present a few of our fall favorites...

On the last full weekend in September Wiederkehr Wine Cellars will host tours of the winery and wine tastings. Come join the celebration filled with music, food, entertainment, polka lessons, grape stomping contest, arts, crafts.

To learn more about this festive event contact the Wiederkehr Wine Cellars, located at 3324 Swiss Family Dr. In Wiederkehr Village, at 1-800-622-9463.

www.wiederkehrwines.com

Wiederkehr Weinfest



Arkansas Blues

& Heritage Festival



The name may have changed from the King Biscuit Blues Festival to the Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival, but the Blues live on throughout the three days of this free live concert event!

Legendary performers from Helena's Delta blues heyday, leading contemporary blues acts and emerging blues practitioners comes together in Early October to move your soul with their talent.

Included in this event of a savory barbecue cook-off; which means there will be plenty to eat. Burn off a few of those calories on the 5-K run, and then consider doing you're Holiday early and support local artists at the arts and crafts market.

For more details contact the KBBF by calling 870-338-8798.

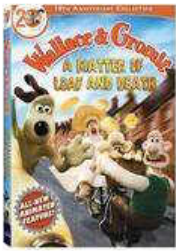
www.bluesandheritage.com

Plan Your Trip

Learn more about events and destinations by visiting the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism at 501-682-7606 or visit www.Arkansas.com

Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

Over 90 domestic & international documentary films including Academy Award-winning and nominated films will be featured during this ten-day festival. This is the oldest documentary film institute in the nation and second only to Amsterdam internationally. Events include forums and lectures, question and answer sessions with filmmakers following many screening, a gala banquet and visiting scholars and celebrities. Learn more by calling (501) 321-4747. www.hsdfi.org.



Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death

By Josh Schubert

This courageous duo from across the pond; Wallace & Gromit™, are back, and their facing a mystery that must be solved before another Butcher is baked! Wallace & Gromit take us on a hilarious adventure in "A Matter of Loaf and Death". The half hour adventure is a showcase of Nick Park's talent.

Shortly after opening their new bakery, Wallace and Gromit learn a deadly murderer is targeting all the bakers in town. This is of little concern to Wallace, who is cooking up a bit of romance with Piella Bakewell, former star of the Bake-O-Lite bread commercials.

With Wallace basking in love, it's up to Gromit discover the identity of the Cereal Killer? But, can he do it before Wallace becomes the next victim?

Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death is filled with suspicion, rivalry, love, intrigue and heroism. Top it off with a large helping of loyalty and friendship, and you bake up all you "knead" for fun family entertainment!

Wallace & Gromit™: A Matter of Loaf and Death is available on DVD beginning September 22nd, from Lionsgate and HIT Entertainment. Special Features on the DVD include:

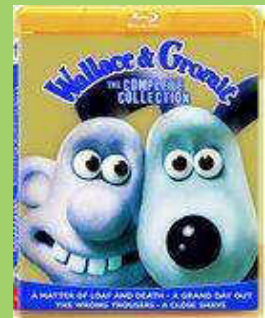
- * Audio commentary with director Nick Park and editor David McCormick
- * The behind the scenes - "How They Donut" – The Making of A Matter of Loaf and Death featurette
- * Wallace & Gromit Grand Adventure Video Game Demo

Look for the new DVD and BlueRay Collection featuring this hilarious duo in your local video or entertainment store.

Wallace & Gromit™: A Matter of Loaf and Death is available

www.wallaceandgromit.com

Oscar-winner Nick Park's weaves together seamless stop-motion animation and brilliant storytelling into a great murder mystery!



Also in stores on September 22nd is the Wallace & Gromit: The Complete Collection All-New Award-Winning Animation featuring:

- ** A Matter of Loaf and Death
- ** A Grand Day Out
- ** The Wrong Trousers
- ** A Close Shave

Florida Keys: BubbaFest Bike Tour



Nov. 7-14 Bicycling enthusiasts can pedal through the Florida Keys on the 200-mile BubbaFest Bike Tour. BubbaFest cyclists travel from Key Largo to Key West and back along the Overseas U.S. Highway 1, features 42 bridges between islands and long vistas of breathtaking open water. BubbaFest is limited to 125 participants. The fee is \$595 per rider, which includes six nights of tent lodging at beachside campgrounds, seven breakfasts and five dinners, a private open-air trolley tour of Key West, social events such as beach parties and a farewell dinner, and services of a baggage truck and support vehicle.

For details on the event schedule and registration, visit www.bubbafestbiketours.com. To check out more on the Florida Keys & Key West visit www.fla-keys.com.

Cook Up A Amazing Getaway

In Snohomish County, WA

Get out to The farm in Snohomish County, Washington! Spend the day with family and friends getting lost in a corn maze, afterwards browse through a pumpkin patch, taste ripe berries from the bush, or pick a handful of flowers for your favorite vase.



By Melody Schubert

Fall is the of many festive events in Snohomish County, Washington. This makes it wonderful when traveling the beautiful country side. Pick up some fresh produce at a farm, perhaps a bottle of wine from a local vineyard, and enjoy a picnic. Afterwards, stroll through a charming town along the way and join the festivities. There are endless possibilities for fun in Snohomish County!

While out enjoying the day you can "Get Sauced Safely" Cooking Italian with Washington Wines. On this fun adventures in Snohomish County you'll discover the secrets of preparing 5 versatile sauces, which are the foundation of Italian cuisine.



Master a fresh and simple Marinara, the perfect Pesto, a delicate Carbonnara, an awesome Alfredo, and a magically simple Marsala. No fear of getting wrong, each sauce is demonstrated and served with a pasta or meat dish, and paired with a matching wine from Washington State. Lombardi's Neighborhood Italian helps you

discover why Washington wines work so well with Italian food, and after the class they'll provide you with recipes so that you can share your delicious new skills with family and friends!

Once you learn how to cook with Washington Wines, then you're prepared to visit a number of the area's exceptional wineries. Among the popular wineries are Griffins Corssing Winery, Saintpaulia Vintners and Sky River Meadery where you can sample the unique blends of hand-crafted and blended wines.

And, at Sky River you'll have the unique opportunity of visiting a meadery - "Mead is the considered the sacred drink of men and gods alike bestowing health, strength, wit and poetry, and imparts virility and long life to those who partake of its fragrant essence"...according to meadery owner and mead-makers at Sky River Meadery.



The Snohomish County Tourism Bureau is the number #1 for providing details on events, attractions, & getaway ideas for your next trip!



Snohomish County, Washington is also home to extrodinary opportunities for outdoor adventures that include Midnight Mountain Bike rides, Hiking, Camping, Golfing, Boating, as well Sky Diving, Hot Air Balloon rides and Scuba Diving. You'll discover more than you imagined on your getaway in Snohomish County, Washington. To learn more call 888-338-0976 or visit www.snohomish.org.

History Comes To Life In Rockford

By Stacy Delray

Burpee Museum of Natural History

The Burpee Museum of Natural History is home to Jane, the world's most complete juvenile T.rex. And, Jane has a new friend, a juvenile Triceratops named Homer.

Homer was found in the Cretaceous Hell Creek formation in Montana by Helmuth Redschlag, and Burpee volunteers. They're not sure whether Homer is a girl or boy, but the Burpee Museum of Natural History is excited about this find because this juvenile Triceratops is a rare find. Homer was found with the bones of two

other young Triceratops. Triceratops were generally known to be loners, so it is very puzzling that Homer was found with other dinosaurs.

When you visit the Burpee Museum of Natural History you can enjoy many hands on activities, including Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur, where you can find out who Jane was, how she died and how she was found 66 million years later. Along with interactive exhibits, the Burpee Museum of Natural History hosts special events and activities throughout the year!



Did You Know?

Helmuth Redschlag named the juvenile Triceratops after Homer Simpson, his favorite TV personality.

Plan Your Trip

To plan your trip call the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.521.0849 or visit www.gorockford.com.



Discover Rockford's Swedish Culture & History

Between 1852 and the early 1900's, thousands of Swedish immigrants settled in Rockford. Today, Rockford has the 3rd-largest population in the nation of Swedish-Americans.

Swedish wood workers made Rockford a leader in furniture making before the 1950's. At this time there were more than 90 furniture factories in existence. And, throughout the area you'll find many craftsmen and woman showcasing their unique

works. To view a amazing work of imagination visit the Tinker Swiss Cottage, historic Southwest Rockford. (www.tinkercottage.com)

The history of the Swedish immigrants can be explored at the Erlander Home Museum and First Lutheran Church. While in Rockford visit the Stockholm Inn for Swedish pancakes and other authentic foods.



Enjoy Year Round Fun & Adventure In South Carolina

By Melody Schubert & Leroy Worley



More Than Beaches

While many visitors head to South Carolina's beaches to relax, there's so much more to enjoy than the sandy shores.

South Carolina is home to fast, high speed thrills that draw thousands to watch the good ol' boys compete at the [Darlington Raceway](#). And, it is home to the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum at the "track too tough to tame."

This is a great place for race fans of all ages to view the cars on display that range from the 1950 Plymouth that won the first Mountain Dew Southern 500 to Darrell Waltrip's spectacularly smashed-up 1991 Chevy Lumina, which is a testament to stock car safety.

Did You Know?

The first state to secede from the Union was South Carolina in December 1860 and the first shots of the Civil War were fired soon after, in April 1861, at Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor.

Upcoming Events

Beaufort Shrimp Festival – Beaufort – Oct. 2-3

Enjoy a big taste of the Lowcountry at the Beaufort Shrimp Festival. The fun event includes a "Popcorn Shrimp Race" for children and a best recipe contest for adults. www.discoversouthcarolina.com

Society Hill Catfish Festival – Society Hill – Nov. 7

Boasting fried catfish, arts & crafts, a parade and an auto show, this historic little community in northeast South Carolina puts on its best each year for this family friendly feast. www.discoversouthcarolina.com

A great side trip for Movie Fans is snapping a photo at film locations throughout the state. Among the films shot in South Carolina are "Forrest Gump", "The Big Chill" and "The Prince of Tides" in the Lowcountry; "The Patriot" in the Upstate; "Sleeping with the Enemy" in Abbeville; "The Program" at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia. The [South Carolina Association of Tourism Regions](#) can help you find all these stops and more on your visit. Plus, they can offer suggestions on attractions and events in the area as well as special packages available!

Plan Your Trip

Visit the SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism online at www.scatr.com or go to www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com to plan your trip.

Photo Credits: SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Thank you for sharing USA Travel Magazine's Fall Edition. We look forward to featuring more destinations across America's Backyard and Beyond!