WELCOME TO: Beaufort, Bluffton, Daufuskie, Fripp Island, Hilton Head, Port Royal, and St. Helena on the Beautiful South Carolina Coast.

Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce
www.BCBCC.org
YES, YOU CAN STILL TRAVEL TO

CUBA

JOIN Pathfinders TRAVEL MAGAZINE for Another Visit to Cuba

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Wednesday – Monday, September 5 – 10, 2018
Departing from Tampa, Florida

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Georgina Lorencz: 612.216.5457 or email georgina@africantravelseminares.com
Beaufort County Guide to 
Gullah Geechee Heritage

- CITY OF BEAUFORT
- TOWN OF BLUFFTON
- DAUFUSKIE ISLAND
- FRIPP ISLAND
- ST HELENA ISLAND
- TOWN OF PORT ROYAL

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Your Guide to the AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE in South Carolina’s Lowcountry
The Lowcountry Experience

BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
“The best place to experience authentic and traditional African American culture.”

Adults and children laugh, learn, explore and feast while touring the Lowcountry in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The Lowcountry, popular for its Gullah culture (pronounced Gul-luh, like seagull), historic sites, and resorts includes the cities of Bluffton and Beaufort (the county seat) and the Sea Islands of St. Helena, Daufuskie, Port Royal and Hilton Head. In areas like St. Helena, you’ll find that much of the land is still owned by African Americans.

GULLAH RICH AND ALIVE

African ancestry in the Gullah-inhabited region of South Carolina can be traced back to West African rice-growing regions of Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau in the north to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Isolation and other factors made it possible for slaves to preserve more of their African linguistic and cultural heritage than any other African American community in the United States. The result is known as Gullah, a blend of British, American and West African culture, food, religion and traditions.


ON YOUR TERMS

Vacationing in the Lowcountry is perfect for weekend getaways, vacations, honeymoons, and family reunions. You may choose to load up on activities including Gullah cultural dances, historic tours, the telling of “Bruh Rabbit” and other stories, singing folk songs like “Michael Row the Boat Ashore”, quilting and of course shopping for hand crafted art, souvenirs, sweetgrass baskets, and herbal medicines. You may also decide to take a few swings on one of our manicured golf courses or find a spot to chill along the miles of sandy beaches.

HISTORIC AND EDUCATIONAL

In the Lowcountry, past and present intersect to produce an unforgettable experience. Walk amid historic landmarks like the home of Robert Smalls who piloted a confederate ship past rebel forces on his way to freedom, and the Penn Center National Landmark District, established during the Civil War as the first school for newly freed blacks.

FANTASTIC FEASTS

For adventurous palates, there are plenty of traditional Gullah recipes, including red rice, okra soup, and gumbo. Of course there’s plenty of seafood and if all you want is a burger, we’ve got that too.

For more information about the African American businesses and activities in the Beaufort County Lowcountry, contact the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce at 843.986.1102.
LOW COUNTRY
The Lowcountry is a flat region of the state bordering the Atlantic Ocean. It includes Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

SEA ISLANDS
Islands off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina where a distinctive and largely independent African American culture developed and thrived.

GULLAH
Sometimes referred to as “Sea Island Creole,” Gullah is a hybrid of English and West African expressions brought over by enslaved Africans. The language once dominated the speaking patterns of African Americans on the Sea Islands and is still spoken by some. The term is also used to describe some African Americans and their lifestyle, including distinct crafts, religious beliefs, communal practices, and hunting and fishing techniques.

GEECHEE
A term that describes African Americans who live along the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida, speak the Gullah language, and make rice a dominant part of meals.

FISH FRY AND OYSTER ROAST
Both of these gatherings are common lowcountry affairs that bring together family and friends to feast on bread and locally caught fish, fried and doused with mustard, hot sauce and spices. Likewise, local oysters are gathered from oyster beds and roasted over an outside fire. After roasting, the oysters are plucked from their shells and eaten with a bit of hot sauce, warm butter, or cocktail sauce.
HEIRS’ PROPERTY
Described as “a sign of ancient culture,” heirs’ property is land that has been passed down through successive generations, often without the benefit of wills or other legal documents.

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
This channel of water along the East Coast hugs the banks of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort, Bluffton, and Daufuskie Island. African Americans survived off this expansive waterway by fishing and shrimping. With their homemade sailboats and other vessels, they traveled the waterway to the mainland and to Savannah to sell their catches and other crops they grew. Today the waterway still provides a bounty for commercial fishermen and exciting adventures for recreational boaters.

NATIVES
Many African Americans whose families have been in the Lowcountry for four or five generations or longer refer to themselves as natives.

WE BIN YA
THEY COME YA
A Gullah phrase that is sometimes used to distinguish between old island families and new island families.

SWEETGRASS BASKETS
Coiled baskets made from marsh grasses and strips of palmetto leaf. Basket-making was once a thriving craft throughout the Sea Islands. The craft is now practiced primarily in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
One of the devastating effects of slavery in the United States was the loss of culture, language and sense of place for the Africans held in bondage. It has been estimated that as many as 40 percent of newly arriving Africans came through the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, and most were quarantined on Sullivan’s Island. Historians estimate as many as half of all African-Americans can trace their ancestry through Sullivan’s Island, likely including the ancestors of former First Lady Michelle Robinson Obama.

The Gullah/Geechee people, as they are called, are descendants of West Africans brought to the marshy wetlands for their skills in copper mining, blacksmithing, and indigo farming. But the skill that provided the most value, and transformed South Carolina into one of the wealthiest colonies, was an expertise in rice cultivation.

Much of the rice farming was on isolated low country barrier islands such as Sapelo, Sullivan’s, James, Hilton Head and Daufuskie that stretched from the southern part of North Carolina to coastal Georgia.

Because the Gullah/Geechee people lived in relative isolation on the coasts and islands, they were able to maintain more of the African culture, heritage, customs and linguistic patterns than any other black people in the United States.

Against a backdrop of live oaks and sea, the plantation era rose from the marshy ground to foster a culture formed by the Gullah people, who may have taken their name from Angola in Africa.

GULLAH CULTURE

Beaufort, the state’s second-oldest city, was historically a challenging place to live and it was quite common for plantation owners to abandon the plantations during “fever season” April through November, allowing the remaining Gullah people to live largely on their own.

Thanks to the isolation of the area and the fact the people were often left to fend for themselves, strong African cultural influences—art, music, cuisine and a special “patois” language—remained largely intact over centuries.

As the years progressed, limited employment opportunities and rising real estate taxes threatened their culture and many people left for cities where opportunities were greater.

However, many Gullah people remained in close-knit communities along the coastal islands. Documentaries, festivals, historical research, anthropologists, Gullah tours and even a planned Gullah Geechie Heritage Corridor support the preservation of the Gullah people.
Even as individual Gullah leave for major cities, others return. Dr. Emory Campbell, who operates Gullah Heritage Trail Tours, returned after retirement to work successfully as an activist on Hilton Head Island.

Anita Singleton-Prather also returned to the land and culture she so passionately loves. Singleton-Prather performs as the storyteller “Aunt Pearlie Sue” (often accompanied by a group of singers called The Gullah Kinfolk). She is a leading artist championing the Gullah way of life as one of the cultural ambassadors of the low country.

Institutions such as Penn Center, established in 1862 as one of the first schools to educate formerly enslaved black people, reflect the culture’s long past through exhibits, lectures and special events, while Beaufort’s Original Gullah Festival and Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration promote yearly celebrations to honor the irreplaceable culture.

The sea, beaches and gentle wave of the sea grasses demand a slower pace. Sit quietly on the porch of one of the historic waterfront homes to decompress.

“Beaufort is a very, very special place,” she said, “and people come from all over the world to experience this Gullah culture.”

Other remarkable Gullah artists, such as Diane Britton Dunham, Cassandra Gillens, Hank Herring and James Denmark, celebrate their heritage painting the landscape and people of this rich history.

According to Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling, spending time in Beaufort “is better than any high-blood pressure pill you may be taking.”
Reconstruction in South Carolina
In November 1861, the Sea Islands or “low country” of southeastern South Carolina came under Union control. Wealthy plantation owners fled leaving more than 10,000 African Americans — about one-third of the enslaved population on their own, making Beaufort County one of the first places in the United States where formerly enslaved people could begin integrating themselves into free society.

The Port Royal Experiment
With Federal forces in charge of the Sea Islands, the government started the Port Royal Experiment, partnering with Northern antislavery and religious societies for resources and volunteers.

The majority of the freed population were illiterate as South Carolina had long forbidden teaching enslaved people to read and write.

In 1862, Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray from Pennsylvania were among the first Northern teachers to arrive in Beaufort County. Towne and Murray soon moved their school into the Brick Church, a Baptist church near the center of St. Helena Island, which operates today with an active congregation.

With help from supporters in Philadelphia, the teachers purchased school buildings and built Penn School on 50 acres of land donated by African American landowner Hastings Gantt.

The Legacy of Penn Center
African Americans gained education and other skills needed for self-sufficiency at the Penn School.

Penn School would evolve into the Penn Center in the 20th century and remained a crucial place for education, community, and political organizing.

In the 1950s and 1960s civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, met here.

Camp Saxton
Camp Saxton is where the First South Carolina Regiment Volunteers mustered into the U.S. Army. General Rufus Saxton recruited five thousand African Americans, mostly former slaves, into the Union Army.

An elaborate and historic ceremony was held in January 1863 to announce and celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states then “in rebellion” against the United States. Currently, this facility is not open to the public.

Old Beaufort Firehouse and the Legacy of Robert Small
The Old Beaufort Firehouse, built around 1912, stands near the heart of the city of Beaufort. Several Beaufort properties are associated with Robert Smalls, an African American who was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives.

End of the Reconstruction Era
In 1877 federal troops withdrew from South Carolina, ending political and military Reconstruction in the state. In 1895 South Carolina voters ratified a new constitution that effectively eliminated African Americans from electoral politics and established racial segregation in law for decades to come.

By the 1900s, many of the Reconstruction era gains made by African Americans were gone, and systematic racism and segregation were firmly established.

The Reconstruction Era National Monument is part of the National Park System.

www.nps.gov/reer
www.facebook.com/ReconstructionNPS
@ReconstructNM
The Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce (BCBCC) was founded in 1999 by Floyd Johnson, a community activist, and Margaret Rush, then president of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

The BCBCC is not a traditional chamber of commerce. Our mission is to work with businesses identified by the federal government in the protected class (disadvantage business enterprise) that need technical assistance and information related to procurement opportunities, employment, certifications, access to capital, business development, networking opportunities, referrals, etc. We are the facilitator between public and private entities looking to expand their participation with disadvantaged business enterprises. We are a microlender with the USDA and SBA. We are a HUD Certified Agency. We are a certified CDFI.

Throughout the year BCBCC provides signature business, social, and cultural enrichment programs, which have included:

- Business Conference & Expo
- Seminars on Sub-Contracting and Contracting with the school district and county
- First Friday Networking Events
- Visitor’s Guide to attract tourism to Beaufort County
- English As A Second Language (ESL) Sessions

To achieve its goals the chamber works cooperatively with local, regional, and national entities such as:

- Certified CDFI
- U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce
- Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce
- South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- South Carolina Housing Corporation
- United States Department or Agriculture
- Beaufort County
- City of Beaufort
- Town of Bluffton
- Town of Port Royal
- Lowcountry Tourism Commission
- HUD Certified
- SBA

The Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce is led by a Board of Directors, which includes local business owners, educators, community leaders, and professionals in the tourism, real estate, and health care industries.

To join BCBCC or learn more about its programs, please visit www.bcbcc.org.
HISTORY
The City of Beaufort is on one of the many islands and communities of Beaufort County. The county also includes the towns of Bluffton, Hilton Head, and Port Royal. The area’s indigenous people were American Indian tribes of the Cusabo group until waves of Europeans flocked to the area beginning with the Spanish in the 1500’s. Thousands of enslaved Africans and African Americans were transported to the region to work indigo and cotton plantations, creating, but not sharing in the region’s wealth. Once freed from slavery early in the Civil War, blacks here were among the first to hear Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

POINTS OF INTEREST
City of Beaufort
Robert Smalls Monument
907 Craven Street
Born a slave in Beaufort, Smalls cleverly captured a Confederate ship during the Civil War and sailed it past Charleston to the Union Navy, earning freedom for himself and his family. Smalls went on to become Captain of his own vessel and a state legislator.

Beaufort Arsenal
713 Craven Street
The Arsenal was completed in 1798. It garrisoned an African American militia unit that included the heroic Captain Robert Smalls. After emancipation, it was the site of the first polling booths for newly freed African American slaves.

First African Baptist Church
601 New Street
This historical church was originally a prayer house and organized as a church in 1865. It is located in Beaufort’s historic district.

Beaufort National Cemetery
1601 Boundary Street | 843.524.392
The cemetery was established in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln as the final resting place for soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War. The cemetery has remained open and veterans continue to be buried here.

In 1868 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The man and his accomplishments are celebrated by a monument on the Tabernacle Baptist Church grounds. (From Americans of African Heritage, Pepper Bird Publications).
**Grand Army Hall**  
706 New Castle Street.  
This hall was restored after a fire in the mid 1980’s but was originally built in 1896 by the David Hunter Post No.9 Department of Georgia and South Carolina Grand Army of the Republic. The organization was formed after the Civil War for black war veterans who continued the traditional African American celebration of “Decoration Day” (Memorial Day), by honoring the efforts of the legendary South Carolina 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Colored Volunteers.

**ST HELENA ISLAND**

**Brick Church**  
Martin Luther King Dr. (near Penn Center)  
The church was built in 1855 by slaves for their owners.

**Penn Center Historic District**  
16 Penn Center Circle W.  
843.838.2432  
The Penn School is one of the nation’s most historically significant African American educational and cultural institutions. It was established in 1862 as part of the “Port Royal Experiment.” Today, its mission is, “to preserve

**Y ork Bailey Museum**  
16 Penn Center Circle W.  
843.838.2474  
Located at Penn Center, the museum houses oral histories, photographs, books, arts, tools and other items documenting the history of blacks and the Gullah culture on the Sea Islands during the 1800s.

**The Museum at Parris Island**  
843.228.2951  
The museum includes exhibits on Lowcountry military history, the history of Parris Island, and the history of U.S. Marine Corps recruit training. Free admission. The museum is open from 10am to 4:30pm.
**The Parris Island Visitor’s Center**  
843.228.3650  
Get an up-close look at the training of U.S. Marines and the history of Parris Island, a military installation. The center offers narrated bus tours at 9 am, 10 am, and 11 am on Thursdays. Reservations are required.

**SHELDON**  
**The Old Sheldon Church**  
Highways 21 & 235  
The church has lain in ruin for more than 140 years. Its gable roof, pediment, windows, and interior have disappeared, but the classic simplicity of its design still remains. Burned by Prevost’s British troops in 1779 and again during the Civil War, it still serves as a religious center for special observances. Admission is free. (Located 1.7 miles north of the junction of Highways 21 and 17 near Gardens Corner.)

**ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST ➤**  
**Hunting Island State Park**  
843.838.2011  
Visitors can swim in the ocean, rent cabins, picnic under shelters, fish in lagoons and on piers, and visit an historic lighthouse.

**MEDIA**  
**WKWQ Radio Station**  
Gullah People Radio  
843.379.1010  
wkwq@gullahradio.net

**LOCAL ENTERTAINERS ➤**  
**Aunt Pearlie Sue Productions and The Gullah Kinfolk**  
843-263-5229  
www.knowitall.org/gullahnet  
Aunt Pearlie Sue is a character based on Anita Singleton-Prather’s grandmother, a native of the Sea Islands in Beaufort County. Singleton-Prather has entertained audiences with Gullah-flavored folktales for over 20 years. The “Gullah Kinfolk” is a tight knit, dynamic group that entertains audiences with musical performances.
HISTORY
Situated on a high bluff overlooking the May River, Bluffton was settled in 1825 as a summer resort for rice and cotton planters. It was a hot-bed for political rhetoric in the early 1840s and 1850s. Debate around secession was first given serious consideration in Bluffton. In June 1863 during the Civil War, Union soldiers attacked and burned Bluffton.
Among the structures that escaped civil war damage were Cole Heyward House, Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Church of the Cross, which today make up part of Bluffton’s Historic District.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
23 Boundary Street
The Bluffton Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1853. It was purchased in 1874 by nine former slaves, who were looking for a building in which to establish an African Methodist Episcopal church, a black denomination gaining popularity in the south. The church was renamed Campbell Chapel in honor of J.P. Campbell, the eighth bishop of the AME church.

Michael C. Riley Elementary School
200 Burnt Church Road
The school is named for a prominent African American educator in Bluffton.

Heyward Historical Center
52 Boundary Street
843.757.6293
Programs on the history, architecture, and culture of Bluffton are offered at this historical home in old town Bluffton.
The Heyward House is one of eight ante-bellum homes in the town and is the only one open for touring.

The well-preserved house with its original slave cabin and summer kitchen is an Official Project of the Save America’s Treasures Program, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The town is home to major arts and cultural festivals and events celebrating the Lowcountry way of life.

Golf, birding, fishing, river tours and water sports offer year-round activity for outdoor lovers, while shopping and dining bring a distinct flavor combination of new and old.

The outlet stores, boutique shopping and casual dining offer plenty of variety along with popular gathering spots for residents and visitors.

Bluffton, with its convenient location near Savannah, Hilton Head and Beaufort, has experienced major population growth during the past decade with annexation of undeveloped land leading to extensive residential and commercial development. Nearby are the Hilton Head Gateway Campus (main campus) of the university of South Carolina Beaufort and the New River Campus of the Technical College of the Lowcountry as well as Sun City.

Bluffton Oyster Company
63 Wharf Street
843.757.4010
The oldest operating oyster shucking facility in the state.


**Rose Hill Mansion**  
This striking, 1858 Gothic Revival home has served as a backdrop to the many faces and lives in the fascinating history of South Carolina’s Lowcountry. Available for special events and weddings.

**Bluffton Bike Trails**  
843.747.6293  
Take the family on a fun and historic bike ride through old town Bluffton.

Bluffton Farmers’ Market
EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

JANUARY
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Check local newspaper listings for memorial services, ecumenical services, breakfasts, dinners, gospel music, marches, and youth programs.

FEBRUARY
Native Islander Gullah Celebration
877.650.0676
www.gullahcelebration.com
The month-long Native Islander Gullah Celebration highlights the Low Country’s Gullah heritage. Events sponsored by the Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association include: Freedom Day at Mitchelville, gospel music, festivals, art exhibits, a sweetheart dance, barbecues, and storytelling.

MARCH
Springfest
843.686.4944 / 800.424.3387
This is a month-long welcome to Hilton Head Island’s spring season. Sponsored by the Hilton Head Hospitality Association, the calendar includes the popular Winefest, the largest outdoor wine tasting on the East Coast. Other festivals include Wingfest, Chocolatefest, and Youth Artsfest.

APRIL
Softshell Crab Festival
www.oldvillageportroyal.com
Annual street fair featuring food, arts, entertainment and vintage cars.

The Heritage of Golf
800.234.1107

Taste of Bluffton
www.tasteofbluffton.com
Annual street fair of food, free family event celebrating lowcountry sights and flavors. The annual PGA golf tournament is held at the world renowned Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head.

Hilton Head Seafood Festival
Shelter Cove Park
The annual seafood festival features dozens of restaurants, lowcountry artists, live entertainment and more family fun.

MAY
Hilton Head Island Art Festival
www.artfestival.com
As many as 150 artists and crafters at Shelter Cove Harbour for a two-day juried outdoor gallery style exhibit.

Memorial Day Celebration
843.838.2241
Downtown Frogmore/ Corners Community
Local businesses on St. Helena Island host artists in residence, food, and music festivities. A real fun day for all ages. Bellavista, Octopuses, What’s In Store, and Red Piano Too Art Gallery.

Gullah Festival
843.525.0628
www.theoriginalgullahfestival.org
Held Memorial Day Weekend in Beaufort, the four-day festival celebrates the Gullah culture. Activities include musical entertainment, storytelling, symposiums, and cultural performances.

Bluffton Village Festival
www.heywardhouse.org.
The festival features an Ugly Dog Contest, food, a parade, entertainment, and arts and crafts and is held the second weekend in May.

Taste of Beaufort
www.downtownbeaufort.com
Annual two-day festival in Waterfront Park featuring tastings, entertainment, arts and 5K run.

JUNE
Daufuskie Day
Enjoy the rich culture of Daufuskie Island on the fourth weekend in June. Come for Island specialties like deviled crabs, folk stories, history and other activities. The island is only accessible by boat.

Harbour Fest
843.785.1106
From mid-June through August, enjoy food, arts and crafts, and entertainment each night at Shelter Cove Harbour on Hilton Head Island. Also enjoy fireworks at dusk each Tuesday.
JULY

Fourth of July Fireworks
(843.986.1102-Beaufort)
(843.785.3673-Hilton Head Island/Bluffton)
Check with local Chambers of Commerce for information on where you can see spectacular fireworks.

Beaufort Water Festival
This festival has thrilled attendees for more than fifty years. Held in the Beaufort Historic District, activities include concerts, a river dance, and a blessing of the fleet.

SEPTEMBER

Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament
843.842.7711
Watch celebrity golfers play in this tournament benefiting local children's charities. It’s held Labor Day Weekend on Hilton Head Island.

Annual Lands End Woodland River Festival
Held on Labor Day Weekend on St. Helena Island in commemoration of several African-American families purchasing 328 acres in the 1920's as a place for recreational activities, hunting, fishing, boating, and family burial grounds.

Food Fest
843.686.4944 / 800.424.3387
Island restaurants serve up a variety of foods and beverages at this tasty festival held at the Shelter Cove Community Park and presented by the Hilton Head Area Hospitality Association.

OCTOBER

Beaufort Shrimp Festival
800.038.3525 / 843.524.3163
Get your fill of island shrimp and participate in a 5K run and walk.

Historic Bluffton Seafood and Arts Festival
www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com
Historic Bluffton Seafood and Arts Festival
Full week of events where art and the bounty of the sea come together.

NOVEMBER

Taste of the Season
843.785.3673
www.hiltonheadisland.org
This holiday food tasting is sponsored by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.

Penn Center Heritage Days Festival
843.838.2432
This St. Helena Island event is held on the second weekend of November at Penn Center.

Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival and Concours de’ Elegance
843.785.7469
Enjoy the Speed Classic, Concours d’Elegance and other exciting events.

Hilton Head Annual Oyster Festival
843.681.7273
Enjoy oysters steamed, fried, or by the bucket at this family event featuring a kid’s zone, entertainment, holiday crafts, and more.

DECEMBER

Christmas Celebrations
843.986.1102
www.knowitall.org
Christmas Celebration on Da’ Sea Islands.
“Gullah Kinfolk Christmas Wish….Freedom Comin” is a Broadway Back In Da’Woods Stage Production starring: Aunt Pearlie Sue & Gullah Kinfolk held on December 2 at the USCB Performing Arts Center.

Renaissance
843.757.3079
This spectacular Bluffton homecoming celebration includes memorial programs, a parade, food, and entertainment. Military veterans and native Blufftonians are honored.
PORT ROYAL, SOUTH CAROLINA

SOFT SHELL CRAB FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE 3RD SATURDAY IN APRIL

12 TILL

The Town of Port Royal is conveniently located between the Beaufort River and Battery Creek in the beautiful South Carolina Lowcountry close to historic Beaufort, the Marine Corps Air Station and Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

- Perfect for history and nature lovers and especially for those seeking a peaceful slice of paradise.
- Specialty shopping, unique gift shops, walking trails, boat ramp, and a variety of restaurants with delicious Lowcountry cuisine.
- Enjoy a wide range of recreational activities. Have a peaceful picnic at The Sands Beach. Catch a sunset while strolling the boardwalk. Watch boats cruising by from the observation tower.
- Grab your family, the whole gang or your coworkers for a full day of fun. Tennis courts, playground, lighted roller hockey rink and covered oyster shed with fireplace and barbeque pit...
- The Town of Port Royal is a good place for your vacation, and to raise a family. Walking trails, great schools and a welcoming business climate. And, home to the state-of-the-art Keyserling Cancer Center.
Discover Port Royal

- Nature
- History
- Business

Join us for annual celebrations:
- Soft Shell Crab Festival – Every April
- Spring and Fall Music Series on Park Avenue
- Oktoberfest for bold party goers

For more information about The Town of Port Royal visit www.portroyal.org
CHILL OUT with McDonald’s McCafé

strawberry shake
mango pineapple frappé
real fruit smoothies

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- Best Chance Newtwork: Breast Cancer Care + Prevention
- Ryan White HIV Services
- Medical Social Work
- Nutrition Counseling
- Community Outreach
- Diabetes Initiative
- WIC Services

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We are HERE FOR YOU

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Ruth P. Field Medical Center
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Chelsea • 843-987-7400

Leroy E. Browne Medical Center
6315 Jonathan Francis, St. Road
St. Helena Island • 843-838-2086

Donald E. Gatch Medical Center
522 Stoney Road
Hardeeville • 843-784-2181

Elijah Washington
Family Medical Center
211 Paige Point Road
Sheldon • 843-846-8026

Ridgeland Family Medical Center
1550 Grays Highway
Ridgeland • 843-726-3979

Hampton Family Medical Center
200 East Elm Street
Hampton • 803-943-2233

Estill Family Medical Center
454 Second Street East
Estill • 803-625-2548

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HISTORY
Native Americans were the original settlers of this warm and beautiful coastal resort community. It became known as Hilton Head after proclaimed founder William Hilton landed on it in 1673.

Africans were originally brought to the island and enslaved to work rice and cotton fields. They brought the unique Gullah culture, which has manifested itself in language, food gathering and preparation, values, crafts, and other skills. Hilton Head is home to Mitchelville, which was organized in 1862 and is one of the first settlements of free blacks in the United States.

POINTS OF INTEREST
Mitchelville
Organized in 1862, Mitchelville was the first freedman’s village in the United States. It continued as a town until the 1870s when Union troops began withdrawing. Today the city includes privately-owned property surrounding the intersections of Beach City and Bay Gall Roads.

Cherry Hill School Building
Located at the corner of Bay Gall and Beach City Roads, the school was among the first one- and two-room classrooms built on the island for blacks. The school opened in 1937. St. James Baptist Church purchased the building in 1961.

St. James Baptist Church
209 Beach City Road
Among the early churches for blacks, St. James was organized in 1886.

Drayton Plantation Slave Tabby Ruins
Bay Gall Road
Portions of about five chimneys are all that remain of slave quarters in what was once known as Drayton Plantation. The chimney remains are made of tabby, a mixture of burned shells used to produce lime, and water. Tabby work was primarily done by slaves.

Fort Howell
Beach City Road
Located in a fenced-in area, the fort was named in 1864 for General Joshua Howell. The fort was constructed by the 32nd U.S. Colored Troop.

Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church
114 Beach City Road
This was one of the first AME churches established in the south by missionaries who arrived under the protection of the Union forces in 1863.

First African Baptist Church
70 Beach City Road
Organized in 1863, the church is the oldest black Baptist church on Hilton Head.

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST
The Gullah Heritage Tour
843.681.7066
Enjoy this two-hour tour through ten Hilton Head Island Gullah neighborhoods. Narrations and group lectures are available upon request.
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The Mather School was the first African American school in Beaufort, established to prepare the daughters of newly freed slaves to teach. Rachel Crane Mather of Boston, Massachusetts founded the school in 1867. From Mrs. Mather’s faith that God would provide for all children grew an accredited high school and junior college. Students received a superior education and practical skills in cooking, gardening, sewing and social graces as well as religion.

Students came from the Lowcountry, southern, northern and New England states and as far away as Africa and La Ceiba, Honduras. In 1881 the school became part of the Woman’s American Baptist Home Mission Society. The school continued to educate African Americans until 1968 when its mission changed to include people of all races. Over the years Mather graduates earned the reputation of being well educated, refined and successful in every major undertaking of their lives.

The mission of The Mather School Lowcountry Alumni and Associates Chapter is to insure the inclusion of The Mather School in the annals of black history and to have Mather School recognized with equal historic significance as other Reconstruction schools of that era.

In 1972 the school became part of the South Carolina technical college system and is now the Technical College of the Lowcountry.
The town of Port Royal is located between the Beaufort River and Battery Creek in the South Carolina Lowcountry. The town is home to two military installations, Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island and Naval Hospital, Beaufort, as well as neighbor to the historic City of Beaufort and The Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort. The town takes pride in its unique natural environment and its accessibility to that environment through its network of walking trails, community beach, boardwalk, and observation tower. Port Royal is experiencing significant growth which has led to the revitalization of the traditional, historical, mixed-use core; the renovation of historic homes; residential infill in and around downtown; and the expansion of the town’s neighborhood elementary school, Port Royal Elementary. Port Royal seeks to foster community and direct new development with the guidance of a Neo-Traditional Master Plan. The town of Port Royal is recognized as one of America’s leaders in small town New Urbanism.

**Union Church**

The Union Church, also known as “The Free Church” was the first church built in the town of Port Royal. The church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The church is located at 1004 11th Street.

**Masonic Lodge**

1610 Paris Avenue. This structure was built and used as a customs house. It was later used as a Masonic Lodge and a bakery. In the 1890’s it was used as headquarters for the Palmetto Post Newspaper now know as The Beaufort Gazette.

**SC State Ports Authority**

Located at the end of Paris Avenue. Like many roads in Beaufort County, this one ends at the water. Imagine what it might have been like over one hundred years ago, when sailors with money to spend would have flocked to Paris Avenue to eat, drink, and purchase supplies for the next leg of their journey.

**Farmers Market**

The town of Port Royal’s Farmers Market opens in April every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. through October. The location of the market is the Naval Heritage Park in front of the Naval Hospital.

**The Sands Beach Area**

“The Sands,” as it is affectionately called by locals, contains a boardwalk along Port Royal Sound. A half mile round trip hike will take you to the observation tower (visible in the distance). This tower is at the edge of the Port Authority area, which was the site of the first documented shrimp docks in South Carolina.

**Lowcountry Estuarium**

The Lowcountry Estuarium is a learning center designed to provide hands-on learning about the coastal environments of our beautiful area, such as salt marshes, beaches, coastal waters and estuaries.
It's easy to get to beautiful Beaufort County just a short drive from I-95 or US 17. Both roads run north-south along the east coast of the United States and connect to other interstates and major highways.

Driving south on US 17, exit onto US 21 at Gardens Corner and enjoy the scenic marsh views going approximately 20 miles east into the downtown Beaufort area.

Driving south on I-95, take Exit 33 at Point South and connect to US 21 for a direct route into the center of Beaufort.

Driving north on I-95, take Exit 8 onto US 278 toward Hilton Head Island and directly into the Bluffton area and the southern part of Beaufort County. This route connects to SC 170, across the Broad River into the city of Beaufort in the northern part of the county.
HISTORY
According to archeologists, Daufuskie was inhabited at least 9,000 years ago. By the 1700s, American Indians were overrun by European inhabitants. The island’s “Bloody Point” marks the place where scores of Native Americans were massacred by the English. By 1800, hundreds of enslaved African worked on the island’s twelve cotton plantations. Many of their descendants live on Daufuskie today.

The island is only eight square miles in area and is just one mile from Hilton Head. Access to the island is provided by two ferry lines.

POINTS OF INTEREST
Daufuskie School House
The school is also named the Mary Field School, which is the setting for author Pat Conroy’s famous novel, “The Water is Wide.” It’s now a community meeting place and gift shop.

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST
Daufuskie Island historical and Cultural Tour
Take a fascinating tour of the island’s winery, church, plantation, and lighthouse through its rustic, dirt roads. You can also take a self-guided tour of this route on a golf cart. Call Calibogue Cruises at 843.342.8687 for schedule and fees.

Outside Hilton Head
Guided excursions to Daufuskie Island. Call 843.686.6996 for tour information.

Daufuskie Beach
This is one of the most pristine beaches on the east coast and the only public beach on the island.

Silver Dew Pottery
Owned by longtime islanders Bob and Emily Burn, the shop features Bob’s intricately designed serving bowls, coffee mugs, platters and other functional art. Bob, a self taught Potter, is full of island history that he shares with visitors.

Daufuskie Island Deviled Crab
Make sure you try the famous Deviled Crab prepared by island natives and available at several restaurants.
While visiting the Lowcountry, you may also want to take a short drive to neighboring cities.

Savannah is less than a one-hour drive south of Beaufort. Considered one of America’s most beautiful cities, it is filled with charm, tradition, and history. Explore the city and discover African American and Civil War history.

Savannah has many attractions, shops, restaurants, museums, tours, cultural and music festivals. For a comprehensive tour through historic Savannah contact Mikki’s Tours by Taste, 912.234.8091. For information about the city of Savannah, visit www.savannahchamber.com. For information about Savannah’s black community, grab a copy of the Savannah Tribune or visit www.savannahtribune.com.

Getting There
From Hilton Head Island/Bluffton area, take Hwy 278 west to 170. Follow 170 to Hwy 17 to the Talmadge Bridge. Follow signs to downtown Savannah. From Beaufort take 170 to Hwy 17.
Visit Charleston for its African American influences and discover a city alive with history, charm, and tradition. Charleston has many attractions, shops, restaurants, museums, and festivals.
For details visit www.charlestoncvb.com/visitors or call 800.774.0006

Gullah Tours explores the places, history and stories that are relevant to the varied contributions made by black Charlestonians. Take this opportunity to hear little-known stories, visit historic cemeteries, see the ironwork from the late Phillip Simmons, a National Folk Treasure. Tours depart from 43 John Street in downtown Charleston.

Getting There
From Hilton Head Island/Bluffton, take Hwy 278 to I-95 north and exit onto Hwy 17. From Beaufort, take Hwy 21 to I-95 north and exit at Hwy. 17.

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