

South Carolina 5-Day Itinerary

Day 1 Arrival:-

For guests arriving by air we pick-up at the Charleston, SC airport at 4:30 p.m. (Please see travel information below).

Arriving by car, we meet at the King's Courtyard Inn in Charleston, SC. Check-in is from 3:00 p.m. (driving directions can be found by visiting the Inn's web-site). Our first day's activity is a pre-dinner get-together at approximately 6-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner.

Hiking in the low country of coastal South Carolina is unique. The hiking, while interesting, is easy enough to allow relaxed enjoyment of the beautiful woodlands, wetlands and wildlife. We'll hike among some of the biggest and oldest trees in the eastern United States and extensive wetlands support abundant bird life that is readily seen and photographed. Now, add a rich regional history and the southern charm of Charleston for a wonderfully enjoyable hiking vacation.

HIKING DAYS:-

Day 2 (5 – 7 miles)

A half hour's drive from Charleston is the Old Santee Canal Park. The easy-going trails and state-of-the-art interpretive center provide us with a great introduction to coastal South Carolina. Penned in by Limestone bluffs to the west and the Cooper River to the east, we weave our way across Biggins Creek and the old Santee canal on picturesque bridges among the tupelo and cypress trees, the Spanish moss and the wading birds. We'll have a picnic lunch near an 1843 plantation house in this 195 acre park. The Palmetto Trail in the Francis Marion National Forest provides our afternoon option. The 435 mile long Palmetto Trail will span South Carolina from the mountains to the sea... we'll stick to a 6-mile section in the Francis Marion National Forest.

Day 3 (5.0 – 12.0 miles)

Today we will spend the entire day at Congaree National Park. This 22,200-acre park protects the largest old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. A network of trails and boardwalks provides for excellent hiking beneath this amazing forest canopy. We'll see some champion trees while keeping our eyes and ears open for owls and woodpeckers and other denizens of the forest.

Day 4 (6.0-8.0 miles)

Today we are back on the Palmetto Trail, this time in Poinsetta State Park. A small lake, bottomland swamp and the Santee Sand hills make for an interesting hike. We follow in the afternoon with a hike at the Santee National Wildlife refuge. Close to 300 species of birds have been seen in the diverse habitat of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. We'll hike through managed wetlands along the shores of Lake Marion, and there is even a native-american shell mound topped by the remains of a revolutionary war fort!

Day 5 (3.5 – 6.0)

A trip to the beach today... Edisto Beach State Park is famed for its beauty and its seashells. Our hike takes us to the banks of the Edisto River, one of the nation's largest preserved estuaries. We pass a 4000-year-old shell mound in a rich maritime forest of live oak, Spanish moss, and palmetto trees on our hike to Edisto Beach. The afternoon will find us at Caw Caw interpretive center, once part of several rice plantations. We'll hike along dikes, canals, and other water control methods that were constructed by slaves during the late 1700's and 1800's. The swamps and forests now provide habitat for diverse wildlife including birds, deer, otters and alligators.

Day 6 (2.0 – 3.0 miles)

You'll have a couple of options for the last morning. You may choose to explore the largest remaining stand of virgin Bald Cypress and Tupelo Gum forest left anywhere in the world at the Francis Beidler Audubon Preserve. Or maybe a visit to the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens and their Audubon swamp may interest you. Using the half-day to explore the charm of historic Charleston is also an option. The trip ends after a picnic lunch in Charleston.

SOUTH CAROLINA – THE INNS

DAYS ONE FOUR AND FIVE

King's Courtyard Inn

198 King St.

Charleston, SC 29401

Toll Free (800) 845 6119

Guests: (843) 723 7000

Fax: (843) 723 2608

www.kingscourtyardinn.com

DAYS TWO & THREE

Clark's Inn

114 Bradford Blvd

Santee, SC 29142

Toll Free: (800) 531 9658

Guests: (803) 854 2141

www.clarksinnandrestaurant.com

If you are interested in additional information about the inns and hotels we will be staying with, we invite you to visit their web sites, or call and request a brochure.

TRAVEL

If you are driving to the starting point, you will find the driving directions on the King's Courtyard website www.kingscourtyardinn.com . The \$12 per day parking fee is included in your trip cost.

If you are arriving by public transportation we offer the following pick up schedule:-

FROM AIRPORTS:-

Charleston, SC Airport - 4:30 p.m. at the Delta ticket counter

If you need a place to stay in Charleston on Saturday night would be happy to help you with a booking at The King's Courtyard (our first night's inn) or there are many of the usual chains near the airport. Our travel service, Better Travel, at (800) 331 6996 can help you with reservations.

We can return hikers to the airport at about 3p.m. on the last day of the trip (earlier times can sometimes be arranged).

FOR TRIPS THAT BEGIN SUNDAY YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FLIGHTS ARE OFTEN CHEAPER IF YOU ARRIVE ON SATURDAY. YOU CAN THEN EITHER FIND YOUR OWN WAY TO THE STARTING INN OR STAY IN THE AIRPORT TOWN UNTIL OUR PICK UP ON SUNDAY.

FROM BUSES & TRAINS:- Greyhound and Amtrak offer service to Charleston, where we can meet you (please call for times).

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU LET US KNOW YOUR TRAVEL PLANS (EG. FLIGHT TIMES & NUMBERS OR BUS ARRIVAL TIMES) IN ORDER FOR US TO MEET YOU. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE A FLIGHT TIME THAT ARRIVES BEFORE OUR PICK UP TIME AND SEND US A POSTCARD WITH THE INFORMATION. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE RECEIVED PICK UP CONFIRMATION BEFORE YOU LEAVE ON YOUR TRIP!

BETTER TRAVEL AT (800) 331 6996 CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR PLANS