

Coastal Calling

South Carolina's Hammock Coast beckons vacationers with adventure, seaside beauty, and rich history.

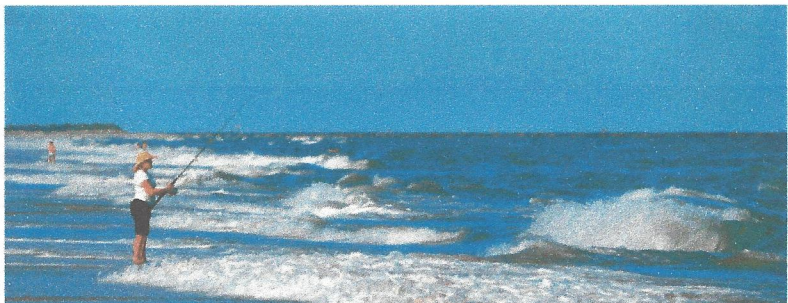
by Michael J. Solender



Tucked between Charleston to the south and Myrtle Beach to the north, South Carolina's Hammock Coast is an inviting alternative for vacationers heading to the Palmetto State on holiday.

Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island, Georgetown and the surrounding communities make Georgetown County a dream spot for an outdoor adventurer with a penchant for history.

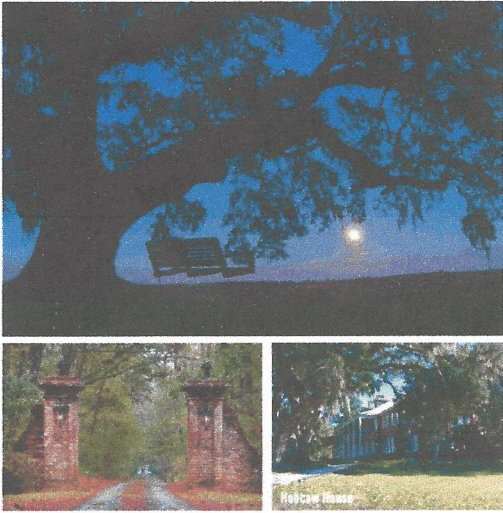
Here the conversion of the Black, Sampit, Pee Dee, and Waccama Rivers funnel into Winyah Bay creating remarkable estuaries luring vacationers with



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unparalleled boating, fishing, birding, golfing, gardens, and beaches.

Georgetown, the third-oldest city in South Carolina, reveals layers of history woven as tightly as a sweetgrass gullah basket around every corner.

Wander the shops along **Front Street** and explore the **Old Market** and **Kaminski Hardware** buildings dating back to 1842. Take the **Rice Museum** tour, a guided exploration of the rice culture that once dominated the county, making it the wealthiest in the nation in the mid- 1800s. Alongside period artifacts, visitors experience the **Browns Ferry Vessel**. This massive wooden ship reclaimed from nearby waters is the oldest vessel of a colonial manufacturer in the U.S., and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A few blocks away is the **Kaminski House**, a Southern Georgian style home dating back to the mid 1800s and home, over the years, to many prominent Georgetown families, notably Harold and Julia Kaminski. Visitors find stunning 18th- and 19th-century English and American decorative arts and furnishings, offering a fascinating glimpse into an era gone by.

Hobcaw Barony, a 16,000- acre tract encompassing every ecosystem found on the South Carolina coast, is the former home and legacy of conservationist Belle Baruch. Upon her death, the property was established as a research, education, and conservation center. Birding and exploring are particularly popular on the lush grounds and marshland.

Tour **Hobcaw House** where Baruch's father, Wall Street financier Bernard Baruch, provided retreat for world figures such as former U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Many historians say the pair planned D-Day here only four weeks before the assault.

Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet captivates visitors with expansive grounds, stunning sculpture gardens, great bird watching, and miles of walking trails. Get tickets early in your vacation as they are good for a week's worth of return visits.

Caledonia Golf and Fish Club will connect you with some of the area's best sport fishing and get you onto the area's top-rated links like **True Blue** and **Caledonia**, both listed among Golf Digest's Top 100 U.S. courses.

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Combine these activities with a stay at nearby Inlet Sports Lodge where specially equipped luxe accommodations allow for storing your gear, cleaning and cooking your catch.

Time falls away as you drive along the alley of Spanish moss-draped Live Oaks into **Mansfield Plantation**. This finely preserved antebellum rice plantation is a luxury bed and breakfast delighting visitors with the gentle pace of life on the water.

Hike more than 1,000 acres of natural preserve where you'll spy deer, fox, hawks, and waterfowl. Gourmet Lowcountry breakfasts such as shrimp and grits and biscuits with country ham start your day out right.

Recently opened **Townhouse Restaurant** in Georgetown tempts diners with luscious crab cakes, the fresh catch of the day, and great steaks. Don't pass up homemade desserts like peppermint ice cream drizzled with hot fudge.

Nearby **River Room** has been a coastal tradition for three decades. Warm hospitality is paired with local seafood and a river view that will have you lingering.

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