

Learn about the best North Carolina and South Carolina adventures, destinations, attractions and communities. Visit and explore!

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July 11, 2019 Below: New England seaport, Southern style; Castle-worthy; Two-wheel wonders; Absurd exhibitions; Get to the Grove; Farm to Table; A peach of a plan; Discover Woodside; Explore Sea Pines

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Let's take a road trip.



Southport, NC

The friendly volunteer at the Fort Johnson-Southport Museum and Visitor Center described Southport perfectly: "This town reminds me of a New England fishing village that has been transplanted to the scenery of the South."

Sounds like an ideal destination for a 36-hour vacation. You'll be amazed at how much fun is packed into one small coastal village.

Begin your adventure with a room in one of Southport's charming B&Bs.

Robert Ruark Inn is a good choice. This beautiful home was built in 1890 by the grandfather of famous author and Hemingway-esque world traveler Robert Ruark. We suggest the Captain Adkins room, with its king-sized bed, period pieces, and luxurious private balcony.

Or, consider Bell-Clay House, built during the Civil War, with a long history of entertaining interesting guests. Completely renovated in 2004, it offers a full range of amenities in an appealing historic setting. Ask for the Newport Suite, which has its own, private screened porch.

You may be tempted to stay put for a while and drink in the ambience of your surroundings. Resist the urge, if you can, because there's much to do and see nearby, and you can return and take a break later.

Delightful Details.

Photo: Ideal destination. Southport is perfect for a road trip. You'll want to arrive early and stay late -- there's that much to do, in a low-key way, of course.

Where in the Carolina World are You?

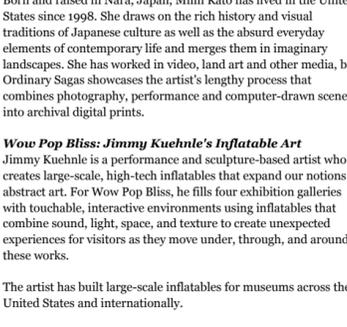


Please don't touch Napoleon's chess set. It's one of many priceless items you'll find here in this mountain manor. If you can, opt for a rooftop tour and survey the world as this member of America's version of royalty did many times. His guests were dutifully impressed. We were, too. Every season is filled with wonder. Go soon. Go often.

Where are you?

Photo credit: VisitNC.com

Absurd Fun



Summer exhibitions at the Columbia Museum of Art

The Columbia Museum of Art announces two major exhibitions, Mimi Kato: Ordinary Sagas and Wow Pop Bliss: Jimmy Kuehnle's Inflatable Art, on view through September 8, 2019. Organized by the CMA, these exhibitions from Cleveland-based artists offer visitors uniquely provocative, even downright playful, experiences with contemporary art.

Mimi Kato: Ordinary Sagas Born and raised in Nara, Japan, Mimi Kato has lived in the United States since 1998. She draws on the rich history and visual traditions of Japanese culture as well as the absurd everyday elements of contemporary life and merges them in imaginary landscapes. She has worked in video, land art and other media, but Ordinary Sagas showcases the artist's lengthy process that combines photography, performance and computer-drawn scenery into archival digital prints.

Wow Pop Bliss: Jimmy Kuehnle's Inflatable Art Jimmy Kuehnle is a performance and sculpture-based artist who creates large-scale, high-tech inflatables that expand our notions of abstract art. For Wow Pop Bliss, he fills four exhibition galleries with touchable, interactive environments using inflatables that combine sound, light, space, and texture to create unexpected experiences for visitors as they move under, through, and around these works.

The artist has built large-scale inflatables for museums across the United States and internationally.

For more information, visit columbiamuseum.org.

Art Photography: Mimi Kato: Windy Woods, 2018 Archival pigment print Courtesy of the Artist

Jimmy Kuehnle: Winking Windbags, 2019 Nylon, LEDs, Arduino, Fan Courtesy of the Artist

Carolina Grown



You'll Love This Southern Beauty

Since moving to the South many years ago, I've always been fond of crinum (pronounced "CRY-nums") or swamp lilies. In my travels through the Carolinas I've seen them in gardens, cemeteries, old home sites, and roadside ditches. In the spring bold green leaves sprout from underground bulbs (some attain the size of grapefruits) to create a fountain-like haystack of strap-like leaves. In the summer clusters of lily-like flowers appear on three-foot tall stalks in colors that range from white, pink, or striped ("milk and wine lilies"). Several common varieties include 'Ellen Bosanquet' (red), 'Cecil Houdyshel' (deep pink to red), and C. x powellii 'Albun' (white). The orange river lily (C. bulbisperrum) is well-suited for wet areas ("hog wallows"); it blooms in the Spring and sporadically through the summer and fall producing white, pink or striped flowers.

More hard-to-find cultivars worth seeking out include the purple-leaved 'Sangria' with deep wine-pink flowers and 'Regina's Disco Lounge' with large pale pink-white flowers with a darker central stripe to each lobe. Depending on the cultivar, crinums may bloom one time or sporadically throughout the season.

Crinum not only offer ornamental interest, but also provide functional uses as well. In the regional gardening magazine, Crinum, my friend, Jenks Farmer, a South Carolina plantsman and owner of a connoisseur crinum nursery company in Bluffton, wrote how he used "Momma's Orange River" lily as a hurdle for running and jumping races." Beauty and durability: isn't it time you added a crinum to your landscape?

Discover 50 luscious and lovely plants.



Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, Carolinas Month by Month Gardening. Available wherever books are sold. Photo of Crinum 'Ellen Bosanquet' by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

Two wheels are better than four



The Carolinas have bike trails that follow mountain paths, meander along rivers, and follow old rail beds through tiny towns.

Here are several of our favorites, with links for more information. Alone or with a group, take your water and your phone for images.

New River Route

It's a mountain trail that's gentle, with views of the New River, in Ashe County, as well as lovely rural settings (find it in the northwest corner of the state, near the town of Jefferson). You'll see a Christmas tree farm or two, as well. Bike rentals at River Girl Fishing Company, and fresh-baked cinnamon rolls from Todd Mercantile (of course you deserve them)!

Duke Forest

Start at historic Bennet Place, and a nice stretch that goes through the woods at Duke University golf course. Want more? Duke's campus is very bike friendly, and as one beautiful seat of higher education.

Swamp Rabbit Trail

It's a 22-mile greenway for walking, bicycling, and motorized wheelchairs (guidelines apply) and follows the Reedy River, connecting the City of Greenville, SC, with the nearby town of Travelers Rest. Beautifully marked, with multiple bike rental facilities and stops along the way.



Bike the Neck

The Waccamaw Neck Bikeway is a flat, paved trail of about six miles, with two sections of four miles, traversing mostly shady areas, paralleling US 17. You'll go from Murrell's Inlet to Sandy Island Road, near Huntington Beach State Park. Locals walk and bike the trails frequently and visitors will enjoy the coastal terrain.

Want more? These two websites offer more great options, including some heavy-duty biking for thrill seekers and body builders.

NC Biking | SC Biking

Photos courtesy visitgreenville.com: top, The Cafe at Williams Hardware on the GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail; bottom, GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail Recyclin' Swamp Rabbit

Farm to Fork

What's that all about, anyway?

Restaurants are embracing farm to fork -- cultivating relationships with local farmers, getting food as fresh as can be, and combining the elements to create a Southern vision creative cuisine that's utterly captivating. What's your favorite locally sourced restaurant? Share on Facebook and we'll find recipes that showcase this delicious movement.

- Let's Take a Road Trip Carolina Famous Faces Insider Info Adventures



NewsWorthy



Timely Events & Promotions Planning a trip? Looking for fun & deals?

Discover Woodside Plantation, Aiken, SC

Experience life as a local for your choice of either three or four days and discover Woodside and Aiken, SC, Southern Living Magazine's "Best Small Town" for 2018.



Meet your future neighbors, walk Aiken's incredible downtown, catch a play or try one of the delicious locally-owned eateries in town. Play a round of golf, explore their state of the art fitness center, or simply enjoy a cocktail by the pool. Plan a tailored visit to Aiken, South Carolina, and find the unique adventure waiting for you. Discovery Package.

Sea Pines Golf and Tennis Vacation Packages

Summertime escapes include opportunities to get outside and practice your game, in this case, golf, tennis or both. There are options on beautiful Hilton Head Island, which has been the playground of those who know for decades.



Accommodations are varied as well: vacation villas, luxury homes, or inn rooms. Work hard, then pamper yourself with downtime and later, world class cuisine.

Discover more about Sea Pines.

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Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin

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