

Now's the time for fun getaways and the great outdoors - Welcome!

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June 22, 2017 Below: Pure crystal; beach read with purpose; Buckle up; Round after round after round; Ginger will thank you; prettiest street ever; The Green Book; Hoorary for the red, white and blue; head out; For the rest of your life.

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PLAN YOUR VISIT

[SouthCarolina.com](#)

Carolina Adventure | A Crystal Palace



Orchid Conservatory Belmont-Gaston County, NC

Very near Charlotte, in the charming town of Belmont, you'll find the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. The centerpiece is their Orchid Conservatory, a massive, 8,000 square-foot, five-story glass building that is the region's only public conservatory dedicated to tropical plants.

Those who love such delicious tropicals as orchids and bromeliads will be enchanted. Check out the Cascade Wall and prepare for amazement as you look up to see perhaps the perfect setting for orchids. Did you know that vanilla comes from a unique orchid, primarily found in Mexico? We didn't either. Look for it when you visit.

Four beautiful arches holding 10,000 tillandsias or bromeliads from South America are not to be missed. And there's more. At any given time, at least 300 orchids are on display. You will find blooms year round. There are 40 different types of begonias living inside the conservatory, as well as 12 different tropical trees.

Ten different cycads, representing all three of the cycad families are on display. (These types of plants have been with us since dinosaur days.) And you can see a lovely representation of national flowers from a number of countries, including Tahiti, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Libya and Singapore, among others.

While there, plan to spend quality time in various sections of the garden, named one of the nation's "20 Great Gardens," by HGTV. Our favorites include the Cottage Garden, with white blooms all year, and the Allee Garden, with its image-enticing tunnel fountain. (Children love to play under the water. Brides like it for its unique frame for that special dress.)

WOW Factor: Among the trees on display are the ones which supply the fragrant oils used to create Chanel No. 5 and Joy – two of the world's favorite perfumes. Perhaps the most impressive tree is the ceiba, commonly called the floss silk tree. At 30+ feet tall, it's a most unusual specimen. Notice the thorns, or prickles – wicked!

Hint: Consider this a year-round adventure, and although you might think it's more for adults, there are great kid-friendly activities, including a children's garden and plenty of space for running. The garden shop often has plants and always features great gifts (for yourself or others).

www.dsbg.org
www.g02gaston.org

Images: Orchid Conservatory wall - Belmont Tourism Development Authority | Melinda Skupnick; Conservatory view from garden- VisitNC.com

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The Rituals of Summer

Hey #!#first_name#!#,

The fruits of the season are upon us. Here now, blackberries and blueberries. And then peaches arrive and the ice cream churn gets busy.

Is #!#city#!# sprouting local farmers markets and roadside stands? From the Blue Ridge to the Atlantic, a Carolinas summer brings oh-so-many ways to have fun.

• See our Farmers Market Directories. [NC](#) | [SC](#)

We're known for world-class golf and tennis camps, and the Blue Ridge Mountains have kept children entertained in cool comfort for generations. The summer escape is underway!

It's time to make plans for a weekend getaway, or perhaps week at a mountain retreat, or beachfront cottage. Stretch your comfort zone and add new adventures to your life!

Read on!

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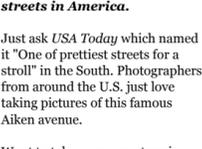
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PS: As July 4 approaches, we are reminded of so many who have endured struggles to keep freedom alive. We salute all those who give their time and effort to help make the world peaceful – you make America proud.

Woof, Woof!



From our good friends at VisitNC.com

Here's a summertime getaway for adults and the dogs who love them.

4 Paw's Kingdom Campground

The first and only dog-dedicated campground. 4 Paws is a true doggie kingdom! Located less than 15 minutes from the quaint must-visit town of Rutherfordton. The campground and dog retreat is simply the perfect answer to a vacation getaway designed specifically with canine companions in mind. Tail-wagging amenities include a fenced-in swimming pond, multiple off-leash play, an agility park, creek, doggie bathhouse with grooming station and more. Rent one of their cabins or RVs or bring your own.

Recommended by Trip Advisor. www.4pawskingdom.com

Learn more about this [area](#). And more [Carolina mountains](#).

Aiken in June



Photo Credit: Outdoor Hands

South Boundary Avenue is one of the most beautiful streets in America.

Just ask *USA Today* which named it "One of prettiest streets for a stroll" in the South. Photographers from around the U.S. just love taking pictures of this famous Aiken avenue.

Want to take your own stunning photos of South Boundary Avenue? Check out their [top tips!](#)

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Time to greet the world under different skies. We've got suggestions here, but you may have your own bucket list of Carolina destinations. Our colleagues love Brevard, Ocean Drive (aka North Myrtle Beach), Aiken and North Charleston and Asheville. Saluda, NC? A little gem. There are others. Please share with us on [Facebook](#).

Heading your way



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A Boutique Offering of New Homesites Daniel Island, SC

The final selection of homesites in Nobel's Point will be offered for purchase this month: two sites with creek docks on the tidal waters of Ralston Creek, three with extraordinarily beautiful and long marsh and water views, and the very last golf/marsh view homesite in Nobel's Point (and one of the very last to be offered on the island). Prices range from the mid \$700s to the high \$800s.

And in Daniel Island Park's Ralston Grove neighborhood close to the clubhouse, seven new interior and wooded homesites will be introduced including several sites that front on the neighborhood's lovely tree-shaded park. Homesites here will range from the mid to high \$200s. Two marshfront homesites in Ralston Grove are available as well. [Info.](#)



The Cliffs Start Pedaling

Situated just outside one of Bicycling Magazine's "Best Small Cities for Cycling," The Cliffs takes cue from Greenville's robust cycling culture, offering a unique range of exceptional indoor and outdoor cycling programs. Program directors and personal trainers are experts on aging health and facilitate programing that educates the community on the benefits of staying active while engaging in low-impact exercise. Great for retirees, or those who appreciate an active lifestyle. [Learn more.](#)

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