

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

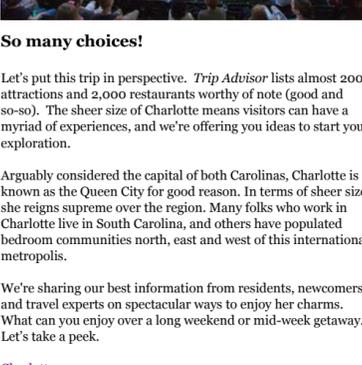


November 16, 2017 Below: Her royal highness; Whole bunch of steps; Angelic & amazing; No jumping required; Break an egg; Be thankful; Always dressing; Light 'em cause you've got 'em; Park yourself.

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### Take a Road Trip to Charlotte



### So many choices!

Let's put this trip in perspective. Trip Advisor lists almost 200 attractions and 2,000 restaurants worthy of note (good and so-so). The sheer size of Charlotte means visitors can have a myriad of experiences, and we're offering you ideas to start your exploration.

Arguably considered the capital of both Carolinas, Charlotte is known as the Queen City for good reason. In terms of sheer size, she reigns supreme over the region. Many folks who work in Charlotte live in South Carolina, and others have populated bedroom communities north, east and west of this international metropolis.

We're sharing our best information from residents, newcomers and travel experts on spectacular ways to enjoy her charms. What can you enjoy over a long weekend or mid-week getaway. Let's take a peek.

Charlotte.

Photo credit: VisitNC.com

Take a Road Trip to Charlotte link:

https://carolinainliving.com/road-trips/charlotte-nc

### Where in the Carolina World are You?



### Beachy Beauty

We have our share of lighthouses, but this beauty happens to find itself within walking distance to one spectacular sandy beach. Before you start building castles in the sand, climb those 167 steps for a panoramic view. Simply awesome!

Where are you?

Photo courtesy Visit Beaufort, SC

Where in the Carolina World are You? link:

https://carolinainliving.com/traveling/where-are-you/lighthouse-on-the-beach

### Skydiving – no plane required



You'll receive training, of course, and professional instructors are with you throughout. Got little ones? Three years old and up are permitted. Afraid of flying? This is all indoors, at one of the largest indoor wind tunnels in America.

And it's safe. This is a very low-risk sport, and you'll have a helmet and jumpsuit. Teens love it, as do families, friends and businesses. There are restrictions, but all very reasonable. If you check it out, review sites are wildly enthusiastic. Note: The company offers indoor skydiving as well as the jump-out-of-a-plane variety, so pick your preference. After you learn the air currents of this vertical wind tunnel and its smooth 150 mph air column, you'll want advanced training to amaze your friends with tricks and turn, mid-air.

Get started with an Earn Your Wings flight, for \$64; Raeford, NC, near Fayetteville – one of a kind.

Learn more at [www.paracletexp.com](http://www.paracletexp.com)

Skydiving – no plane required link:

http://paracletexp.com

### Something Sacred



### Angel Oak Tree, Johns Island, SC

When visiting Charleston, put a visit to this Park in your to-do list for a side trip. The park is free and there is a tiny souvenir shop, but the attraction is this 400+ year-old beauty. Trip Advisor reviewers use words like magnificent, awe-inspiring, calming and serene, worth a visit.

The name comes from one of the owners of the land, Justus Angel and his wife, Martha. Local legends suggest that the ghosts of former slaves appear as angels around the tree.

Wherever the name originated, the site is truly an inspiring destination, with its trunk that's 28 feet in circumference, and one of its branches almost 200 feet long. Be careful when you go. No leaning or sitting on or against it. Admire from a (short) distance.

Angel Oak has seen it all, including a brush with death during Hurricane Hugo in 1989. It was damaged, but not beaten. It's healthy again and ready for company.

Learn more: [Angel Oak](http://www.angeloaktree.com) | [Charleston](http://www.charleston.com)

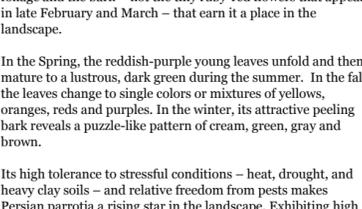
Photo credit: © Michael Vek | Dreamstime

Something Sacred link:

http://www.angeloaktree.com/

https://carolinainliving.com/coast/charleston-sc

### Quacking Good!



Let's talk duck eggs. And Aiken Farmers Market. And Ramey Farms. You see where this is going.

Duck eggs have become hugely popular and you can find them in Aiken, SC at the local farmers market.

Why ducks instead of chickens? You'll find dozens of reasons, from more omega 3, to alkaline (according to some, better for cancer patients), to longer shelf life, richer yolks, fluffier cakes, etc. We've been told the taste is far superior as well.

There are so many reasons to visit Aiken, from the endearing horse culture, to galleries, historic homes and entrancing parks. Add this to the list. And when you go, plan to stay at The Wilcox hotel, restaurant and spa, with its magnificent accommodations (President Franklin Roosevelt stayed there). One more thing: Ramey Farms is the exclusive supplier of duck eggs to The Wilcox. You may get to taste before you buy.

Aiken County Farmers Market (Table 38) on Saturdays from sunrise to noon, 115 Williamsburg St. near downtown Aiken.

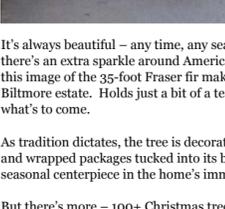
[Aiken](http://www.aiken.com).

Photo credit: © Littlejaubaz | Dreamstime

Quacking Good! link:

https://carolinainliving.com/heartlands/aiken-sc

### Carolina Homegrown



### Tough and Beautiful

Written by Bob Polomski

I first became acquainted with Persian parrotia (*Parrotia persica*) in Athens ... Athens, Georgia. In early August, I was smitten by this tough, small tree growing in a triangular parking lot island surrounded by asphalt. I recall escaping from the blistering sun and heat to the cool oasis that awaited me beneath its spreading boughs.

True to its namesake of Persian ironwood, this native of northern Iran and Azerbaijan combines beauty with durability. Either grown as a single- or multi-trunked specimen, it's the foliage and the bark – not the tiny ruby-red flowers that appear in late February and March – that earn it a place in the landscape.

In the Spring, the reddish-purple young leaves unfold and then mature to a lustrous, dark green during the summer. In the fall, the leaves change to single colors or mixtures of yellows, oranges, reds and purples. In the winter, its attractive peeling bark reveals a puzzle-like pattern of cream, green, gray and brown.

Its high tolerance to stressful conditions – heat, drought, and heavy clay soils – and relative freedom from pests makes Persian parrotia a rising star in the landscape. Exhibiting high tolerance to stressful conditions—heat, drought, and poor soils—along with its freedom from pest and disease problems, justifies its use as a landscape or street tree. Because Persian parrotia can grow up to 30 to 40 ft. high and wide, afford it plenty of room in your landscape. There are narrow or upright cultivars available for more confined areas, such as 'Chris Haven' Golden Bell Tower™ PP 28,584, 'JL Columar' P.A.F. Haven™, 'Inge' Ruby Vase®, and 'Janessa.'

If you prefer to enjoy Persian parrotia vicariously, visit the breathtaking multi-trunked specimen at the Biltmore House and Gardens in Asheville. Like me, you'll fall in love with Persian parrotia.

Photo by Bob Polomski, Ph.D.

### Best of Carolina Grown Beauties



Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, [Carolinas Month by Month Gardening](http://www.carolinainliving.com/books/9781591865865/Carolinas-Month-by-Month-Gardening.html).

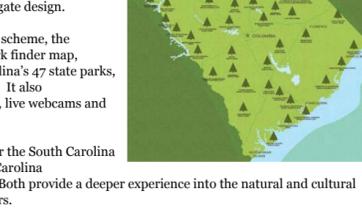
Available wherever books are sold.

Carolina Homegrown links:

https://carolinainliving.com/lifestyle/garden-carolina-grown

https://www.quantknows.com/books/9781591865865/Carolinas-Month-by-Month-Gardening.html

### Christmas at Biltmore



It's always beautiful – any time, any season – however for 2017 here's an extra sparkle around America's largest home. We like this image of the 35-foot Fraser fir making its grand approach to Biltmore estate. Holds just a bit of a tease and a promise of what's to come.

As tradition dictates, the tree is decorated with 500 ornaments and wrapped packages tucked into its branches. It serves as the seasonal centerpiece in the home's immense Banquet Hall.

But there's more – 100+ Christmas trees – each hand-decorated and styled – grace the house and estate combined. The Conservatory is filled with poinsettias and tropical plants and offers a daily complimentary seminar that provides tips for guests' own holiday décor.

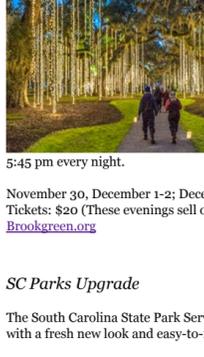
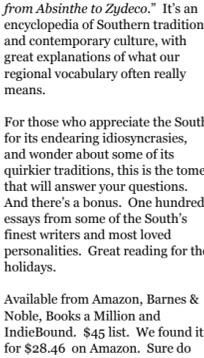
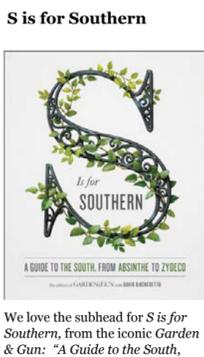
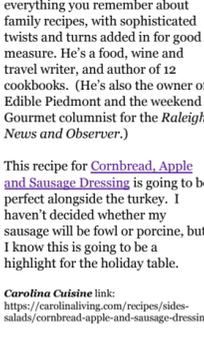
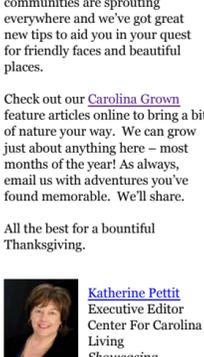
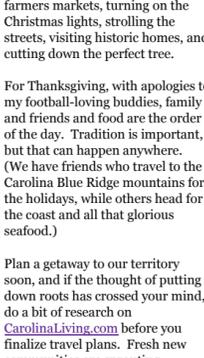
NEW this year, Biltmore Winery is decorated with 7,000 globe-shaped ornaments hanging from the ceiling – giving guests the feeling of being inside a bottle of sparkling wine. Free tastings of Biltmore wines are offered among the festive décor. Now doesn't that make you want to put on your best red velvet dress for a night out with the upper crust!

Runs through January 7, 2018. [Biltmore.com](http://www.biltmore.com)

Photo credit: The Biltmore Company

Christmas at Biltmore link:

http://www.biltmore.com/



Hi,

We're sure it's lovely in your town, but may we offer a shameless plug for the Carolinas as you make your holiday plans? So many ways to celebrate the holidays here, perhaps because we're party people at heart and in our souls. We can make a party out of shopping at farmers markets, turning on the Christmas lights, strolling the streets, visiting historic homes, and cutting down the perfect tree.

For Thanksgiving, with apologies to my football-loving buddies, family and friends and food are the order of the day. Tradition is important, but that can happen anywhere. (We have friends who travel to the Carolina Blue Ridge mountains for the holidays, while others head for the coast and all that glorious seafood.)

Plan a getaway to our territory soon, and if the thought of putting down roots has crossed your mind, do a bit of research on [CarolinaLiving.com](http://CarolinaLiving.com) before you finalize travel plans. Fresh new communities are sprouting everywhere and we've got great new tips to aid you in your quest for friendly faces and beautiful places.

Check out our [Carolina Crown](http://Carolina Crown) feature articles online to bring a bit of nature your way. We can grow just about anything here – most months of the year! As always, email us with adventures you've found memorable. We'll share.

All the best for a bountiful Thanksgiving.

**Katherine Pettit**  
Executive Editor  
Center For Carolina Living  
Showcasing  
Carolina Life & Adventures

**Carolina Cuisine**

Forward this email to a friend.

The Giving Season link:  
https://carolinainliving.com/lifestyle/garden-carolina-grown

**Fred Thompson's Southern Sides**

290 Unbaked Recipes That Really Make the Day

**Dressing or Stuffing – It's tasty.**

It's time to think about holiday sides and I'm into comfort foods for the family. I've made this dish before to great applause. There's just something about pairing meat with a touch of sweet that works well – especially with the salty concoctions that often appear on holiday tables.

Fred Thompson's *Southern Sides* is everything you remember about family recipes, with sophisticated twists and turns added in for good measure. He's a food, wine and travel writer, and author of 12 cookbooks. (He's also the owner of Edible Piedmont and the weekend Gourmet columnist for the *Raleigh News and Observer*.)

This recipe for [Cornbread, Apple and Sausage Dressing](#) is going to be perfect alongside the turkey. I haven't decided whether my sausage will be fowl or porcine, but I know this is going to be a highlight for the holiday table.

Carolina Cuisine link:  
https://carolinainliving.com/recipes/sides-salads/cornbread-apple-and-sausage-dressing

**S is for Southern**

We love the subhead for *S is for Southern*, from the iconic *Garden & Gun*: "A Guide to the South, from Absinthe to Zydeco." It's an encyclopedia of Southern tradition and contemporary culture, with great explanations of what our regional vocabulary often really means.

For those who appreciate the South for its endearing idiosyncrasies, and wonder about some of its quirkiest traditions, this is the tome that will answer your questions. And there's a bonus. One hundred essays from some of the South's finest writers and most loved personalities. Great reading for the holidays.

Available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books a Million and IndieBound. \$45 list. We found it for \$28.46 on Amazon. Sure do hope Santa's reading this review.

**The New Guide is Here**

Register and get the new edition of CarolinaLiving.com Guide and the fun-filled Compass eNews twice a month... learn all about the Carolinas thrills and frills.

The New Guide is Here link:  
https://carolinainliving.com/survey

**Facebook**

We're Thankful!

Join us in being thankful for so many good things we all enjoy. Good food, good friends, great times with those we love, and the wonderful memories created by traveling.

The Carolinas offer prime memory-making destinations. What are some of your favorites? We'll begin. Brevard, Ocean Drive, Charleston. Do share with us on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/Carolina-Living-33011591422/?ref=search

**Heading your way**

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

**NewsWorthy**

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

**It Will Take Your Breath Away**  
Nights of a Thousand Candles

See Brookgreen Gardens come to life with the soft glow of more than 5,500 hand-lit candles and countless sparkling lights from 3 - 10 p.m. Walk the paths with a warm cup of cider, hear the sound of holiday music, and celebrate the season with family and friends.

The 85-foot-tall fir tree decorated with 100,000 lights will be lighted in ceremonial fashion at 5:45 pm every night.

November 30, December 1-2; December 7-9; December 14-17  
Tickets: \$20 (These evenings sell out quickly, so act soon.)  
[Brookgreen.org](http://Brookgreen.org)

**SC Parks Upgrade**

The South Carolina State Park Service upgraded its website with a fresh new look and easy-to-navigate design.

Using bold graphics and a trendy color scheme, the updated site features an interactive park finder map, enhanced pages for each of South Carolina's 47 state parks, and new program listings and features. It also incorporates the parks' Instagram feed, live webcams and more.

The project also redesigned the sites for the South Carolina Junior Ranger program and Discover Carolina curriculum-based education program. Both provide a deeper experience into the natural and cultural wonders of state parks for young visitors.

[www.SouthCarolinaParks.com](http://www.SouthCarolinaParks.com)

The upgrade was designed by Bluffton-based BFG Communications, the communications marketing agency of record for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

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