

The **Road** Best Traveled Travels Through **Florence!**



Florence South Carolina
Group Travel Guide

When the road travels through Florence, South Carolina, you'll offer your groups an exciting different and inventive trip! We bet they've never...

hugged an alpaca...seen a button-covered coffin... experienced three acres of topiary gardens...gotten lost in a corn maze...joined an archaeological dig... gone star gazing by canoe...driven a real race car on a famous NASCAR track...picked cotton bolls from the field...sheared a sheep...or searched for the South Carolina Lizard Man.

Florence is a surprisingly cosmopolitan city located in northeast South Carolina, just over an hour from Myrtle Beach. It offers more than 5,000 quality hotel rooms and 275 fine restaurants and eateries. Conveniently located at the intersection of I-95 and I-20, the city still retains its southern charm and heritage reflected in interesting museums, antebellum mansions, lovely gardens and historic districts.

Please contact the Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau for group tour hotel information and pricing on our enticing tour itineraries sampled here. info@florenceccvb.com



Multi-Generational Mega Fun – 2 Days

Whether your group is father/son or grandmother/granddaughter, everyone is sure to have fun with these choices!

- Hands-on project with Science South (for example, building a remote controlled airplane)
 - Visit the Button Museum to discover how an insomniac spends his time and becomes nationally renowned
 - Pajama party at the hotel with popcorn and a movie related to your day's activities
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- Paint a piece of pottery at Wink! Contemporary studio
 - Learn to cook or bake cookies at Young Chefs
- * These projects can be tailored for holidays - paint a Christmas ornament, bake holiday cookies and watch Rudolph!*

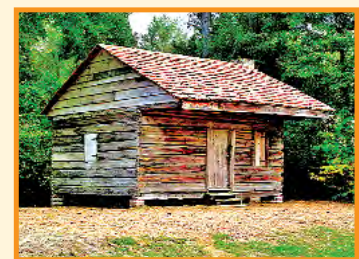


Young Chefs

School and a Sermon – 3 Days

African-American Tour can include visit to Rosenwald School to hear a portion of a lesson and a heart-felt sermon from Mount Zion Church.

- Explore the African-American slave cabins at Mars Bluff
 - Follow the driving tour of ten African-American historic sites
 - Sit in on a school lesson and sermon at Rosenwald School
 - Have a BBQ dinner at The Cottage at Francis Marion University
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- Visit the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Memorial (Challenger astronaut and leader in laser physics) in Lake City
 - Afternoon tea on the porch of a beautiful antebellum plantation home
 - Visit Estelle's Pecans at the Pee Dee State Farmer's Market
 - Free Evening
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- Stop by Pearl Fryar's topiary garden, a three-acre yard of organically maintained topiaries
 - Have a picnic lunch at Mary McLeod Bethune Park in Lee County



Hewn Timber Cabins

That's History – 3 Days

Florence area history spans both Revolutionary and Civil War times reflected in an interesting selection of museums, antebellum homes and historical sites.

- Tour The Columns antebellum plantation home
 - Visit the African-American slave cabins at Mars Bluff
 - Search for Florena Budwin's grave marker in the National Cemetery as you listen to her story
 - Browse through the War Between the States Museum
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- Trace space history at the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Memorial (Challenger Astronaut) in Lake City
 - Dine at the Railway Restaurant in Lake City
 - Have an agricultural history tour through the South Carolina Cotton Museum in Bishopville (don't miss the giant boll weevil), the South Carolina Tobacco Museum in Mullins and the National Bean Market Museum in Lake City
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- Admire the pueblo pottery collection at the Florence Museum of Art, Science and History
 - Join an archaeological dig at Johannes Kolb site in Mechanicsville (February)
 - Relive history at the Jacob-Kelley House in Hartsville
 - Follow motorsports history at the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum
 - Dine at Southern Oaks Restaurant in Bennettsville



National Cemetery



Dr. Ronald McNair Memorial

Get Racy! – 2 Days

Build an itinerary for the race fanatic!

- Begin tour at Lowe's Motor Speedway Hall of Fame in Charlotte
 - Travel back in time at the "Track Too Tough to Tame" and tour the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum
 - Experience a real race Saturday night at the Florence Motor Speedway (April - October). Three winners of a drawing will have the "Ride of Their Life" in a stock car circling the track at true race speeds, and a t-shirt and photo to prove it!
 - Checkered flags on the door of each hotel room
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- Compete with your bus buddies with remote controlled drag racers to win the title of "Speedmaster"



Darlington Raceway Museum

A Night with the Stars – 2 Days

Choices for star gazers and rising stars!

- View 2000 stars and several galaxies at the Francis Marion University Planetarium
- Buffet dinner at The Cottage on the university campus includes star-themed decorations and a game to crown the Star of Florence
- Star wands with one specially marked to win a framed image of Van Gogh's "Starry, Starry Night"
- Dinner performance by Forever Plaid barbershop quartet or Miss South Carolina
- Karaoke or learn to shag to beach music (South Carolina's state dance)
- Accommodations include stars on doors and starlight mints on pillow



Fryar's Topiary Garden

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- In the morning, stop by Pearl Fryar's topiary garden to watch him create a star-shaped bush

Food, Glorious Food – 3 Days

Choose from these wonderful culinary delights!

- Wake up with organic espresso at The Midnight Rooster in Hartsville
 - Pick scrumptious strawberries at McLeod Farms in McBee
 - Try all the flavors of pecans at Young Pecan Plantations
 - Sample Florence's barbecue at Roger's Barbecue
 - Accommodations include utensils on hotel room doors and flavored pecans on the pillows
 - Watch a movie at the hotel while your group develops a variety of flavored popcorn
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- Tour the Blenheim Ginger Ale facility near South of the Border
 - Nibble your way through the Russell Stover Candy Outlet in Marion
 - Learn to bake a pecan pie at Estelle's Pecans at the Pee Dee State Farmer's Market
 - Design a progressive supper - tapas at Victor's Bistro, ginger Salmon at the Starfire Grill and St. John's chocolate pecan pie at Percy and Willie's Food & Spirits. Choose a wine for each course.
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- Taste local honey at Ovis Hill Farm while you learn to churn butter
 - Enjoy low country shrimp and grits at Redbone Alley



Estelle's Pecans



McLeod Farms

Azaleas and Magnolias – 3 Days

Southern gardens have always been an important aspect of our area's history and many are nationally renowned.

- Stroll along the boardwalk through Kalmia Gardens in Hartsville
 - Tour the Wilds-Edwards House in Hartsville and its 1800's period antiques
 - Stop by Pearl Fryar's topiary garden, a three-acre yard of organically maintained topiaries
 - Accommodations include flowers in the hotel room
 - Decorate a flowerpot workshop or watch a movie in the evening
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- Drive the 12-mile beauty trail to view the landscaping at Florence's stately residences
 - Wander through the open-air Pee Dee State Farmer's Market (Spring and Fall Flower Festivals are wonderful!)
 - Enjoy iced tea as you visit The Columns, an elegant antebellum plantation home
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- Paint a gourd birdhouse at Ovis Hill Farm in Timmonsville
 - Dine at Victor's Garden Room



Kalmia Gardens

Girl Friends, Good Friends – 2 Days

There is nothing better than time spent with friends! Choose from these great activities:

- Wander through the Pee Dee State Farmer's Market
 - Taste the scrumptious pecan samples at Young Pecan Plantations
 - Afternoon tea on the porch of a beautiful antebellum plantation home
 - Paint pottery as you enjoy wine and cheese at Wink! Contemporary studio
 - Accommodations include "girlfriends" sign on door and kit to paint toenails in room
 - Pajama party at the hotel with popcorn and a movie
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- Decorate flip flops before hopping on the coach to a spa in Myrtle Beach
 - Lunch at Redbone Alley



Pee Dee State Farmer's Market

Farming it Out – 3 Days

For a great hands-on furry experience!

- Hug Sassy the alpaca at Emmett Acres Farm in Bishopville
 - Follow the South Carolina Cotton Trail to the Cotton Museum in Bishopville
 - Stop by The Midnight Rooster in Hartsville for organic coffee and a free-range chicken sandwich
 - Accommodations include cotton bolls hanging on door and flavored pecans in room
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- Watch border collies at work herding sheep and weave hand-dyed wool at Ovis Hill Farm. Visit the gift shop before you leave Timmonsville
 - Browse through the open-air market at the Pee Dee State Farmer's Market, taste the pecan pie at Estelle's and see a local potter at work
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- Get lost in Pim's corn maze in Darlington (Sept. - Nov.)
 - Visit McLeod Farms in McBee and take a bite of a juicy peach
 - Tour the South Carolina Tobacco Museum in Mullins



Sassy the alpaca



Sheep herding

It Happens When You Wear Red – 2 Days

This itinerary provides choices specially designed for the ladies in red!

- Afternoon tea on the porch of a beautiful antebellum plantation home
 - Decorate photo frames in red and purple, photos taken will be delivered to each lady in the morning
 - Dine at Redbone Alley with red-themed decorations
 - Hotel room doors decorated with red glitzy hats, red candies in organza bags on pillows
 - Purple pajama party - decorate slippers with red and purple sparkles and bows
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- Red-themed breakfast
 - Visit the Pee Dee State Farmer's Market
 - Shop at Young Pecan Plantations
 - Red foiled-wrapped chocolate rose as they depart



The Columns Plantation

Birds and Gators – Get Wet! – 3 Days

For the more adventurous outdoor-sy types:

- Walk along the boardwalk through the wetlands of Kalmia Gardens in Hartsville
 - Go star gazing by canoe - dinner included!
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- Look up to spy 150 species of birds at Woods Bay State Park in Olanta, varying by season.
(Look down to spot the gators in the tupelo/cypress swamp!)
 - Canoeing or kayaking on the Lynches River
 - Get squirted as you frolic through the new Splash Pad at Lynches River County Park
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- Go fishing at Clemson Outdoor Educational Center's 150-acre lake



Canoeing Lynches River

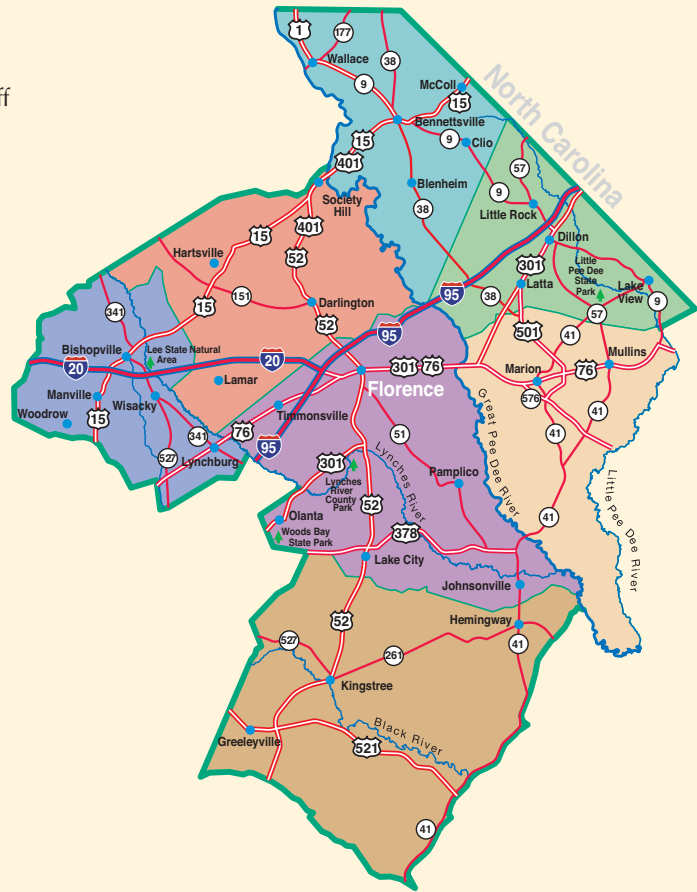
* Member ABA, FMA, GMOA, MASC, NCMA, NTA, PBA, SCMA, STS, UMA, VMA

Free Things to Do in the Pee Dee Region:

- African-American Slave Cabins at Mars Bluff
- Dr. Ronald E. McNair Memorial - Lake City
- Emmett Acres Alpaca Farm - Bishopville
- Florence Flea Market
- Florence National Cemetery
- Jacob-Kelley House Museum - Hartsville
- Kalmia Gardens - Hartsville
- Mary McLeod Bethune Park - Lee County
- Merchants Mill Pond - Bishopville
- Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden - Bishopville
- Pee Dee State Farmer's Market
- Planetarium at Francis Marion University
- Rotary Beauty Trail
- Russell Stover Candy Outlet - Marion
- South Carolina Cotton Trail
- South of the Border - Dillon
- The Button Museum - Bishopville
- Timrod Park
- Wallace Woods Nature Trail
- Woods Bay State Park - Olanta
- Young Pecan Plantations Outlet



Timrod Park



South Carolina
Smiling Faces. Beautiful Places.®

Out of the Ordinary – 3 Days

For those who believe they've seen and done it all!

- Hug Sassy the alpaca at Emmett Acres Farm in Bishopville
 - Sing along with the Button King on his button-covered guitar at The Button Museum in Bishopville
 - Get surprised by the South Carolina Lizard Man as you wander through Pearl Fryar's topiary garden in Bishopville
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- Quack at the thousands of mallard ducks at Merchants Mill in Bishopville
 - Churn butter at Ovis Hill Farm in Timmonsville
 - Experience a real race at the Florence Motor Speedway (Saturday nights, April - October). Three winners of a drawing will have the "Ride of Their Life" in a stock car circling the track at true race speeds and a t-shirt and photo to prove it!
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- Visit the Blenheim Ginger Ale facility near South of the Border



Experience real race track speed.

Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau

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