

Off the Course

Fun activities abound for non-golf enthusiasts!

While the Lowcountry offers some of the finest golf around, it is also rich with a variety of other activities that non-golfing residents and vacationers can enjoy during the *MCI Heritage* golf tournament, or most anytime of the year.

If milling about with thousands of enthusiastic spectators, camera crews and celebrity athletes is not your bag, perhaps a relaxing day at the beach or picnic at a nearby park would be more your speed. Hilton Head's 12 miles of beautiful beaches offer a perfect place to cat nap, paint, photograph, build sand castles, or work on your memoirs. Jarvis Park (on the island's north end), for example, offers picturesque views, children's play areas, grills and paths.

If you prefer more physical activities, rent a bike, or a horse! The island's beaches and miles of trails are ideal for riding. In addition to improving your cardiovascular health, you'll discover the area's unique wildlife. Local vendors can help you saddle up or even deliver bikes to your door. You can also take your bike, or walking shoes, to pristine Pinckney Island – you'll see a sign for Pinckney on the right side of Hwy 278 when leaving Hilton Head for the mainland. A bit farther north, on the opposite side of the road, you'll find a road that leads to a boat launch and dock. This is a great place to hunt for shark teeth that wash up on shore. The Coastal Discovery Museum, 689-6767, hosts nature tours and other educational events (like gator shows!) for the entire family.

Another great way to enjoy area wildlife is to board a boat and hit the coastal and intracoastal waterways. From fly and shark fishing to dolphin watching and sunset cruises, you can enjoy the high seas or leisurely explore peaceful intracoastal waterways and interact with nature via kayak. Why not rent a surf board and hang ten on Hilton Head's surprisingly impressive waves!

Our area also offers some of the finest shopping venues around. From Hilton Head's numerous unique boutiques and specialty stores to the outlet malls and charming Calhoun Street (not to be missed!) in Bluffton, you're bound to discover some great finds. Or how about a day trip to Savannah or Beaufort? Like Hilton Head, they are rich with history and offer numerous activities for eager adventurers. Call Old Savannah Tours at 912-234-8128, or contact Main Street Beaufort, 843-525-6644.

You can take a ferry over to Daufuskie Island for golf, touring or a great spa experience. Hilton Head also boasts some of the finest spas anywhere. Pamper yourself with a few rejuvenating treatments or treat yourself to a full day of revitalization and relaxation -- you deserve it!

And once you've explored, shopped and then "recharged your batteries," slip into a great new outfit and take in some fine cuisine at any number of extraordinary dining establishments in our area – the Lowcountry offers something special for every palate. Everyone can enjoy Hilton Head year round, on and off the course! – Blanche L. Tomaszewski



Phil Hartman, Angie Greenfield, Bill Hawnert, Scott Krivola

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