

railing and enjoy the sights. The boat motors past Hilton Head's communities of Windmill Harbour and Spanish Wells – complete with expansive, beautiful homes. The ferry ride also offers a wonderful view of Hilton Head's Harbour Town, including the cheerful stripes of its most famous icon, the Lighthouse at Harbour Town.

Upon arriving on Daufuskie, a number of buses wait to take guests to their destinations on the island. One such bus follows one of the few paved roads on the island to the Daufuskie Island Resort & Breathe Spa (a Tiburon Hospitality property), which offers a host of on site activities for visitors to enjoy.

One thing you'll notice immediately is that golf cart is the preferred mode of transportation on the island – a welcome change from any SUV. The "cottage" carts are popular with residents and guests alike.

"People like to come over, rent a cottage cart and explore on their own," said Jeff Homad, a member of the resort's marketing team.

Cost for a day's rental is \$36, plus tax, and carts aren't allowed to leave the resort property. New to Daufuskie is the "Segway HT," the first self-balancing, electric-powered, transportation device, which is designed to tackle hills, grass and sand.

"Segway HTs add an additional mode of transportation for our resort guests," said Kelly Lewis, general manager of Daufuskie Island Resort & Breathe Spa. "Part of the charm of Daufuskie is that the main source of transportation is usually a cottage cart or bicycle, as cars are extremely limited. So the Segway HT offers the perfect mode of transportation to explore the island." Resort guests can rent Segways for \$70 per half-day, which includes a brief on-site lesson.

The solitude of Daufuskie extends beyond the resort into the wilds of the island. The roads away from the resort are mostly sand, though a few frequently traveled outlets are paved. To explore the island on your own, Melrose Mansion also offers bicycle rentals. Guests are free to take bikes outside of the resort grounds. The Hilton Head ferry dock has a packet of information on the island, including a bicycle tour guide.

Beach cruisers are offered for \$10 for the day. But be careful. If you haven't ridden in awhile they can be a bit tough to handle, as evidenced by a minor crash. But the old saying is true; you don't forget how to ride a bike.

Pedaling sedately along the island's quiet roads is a wonderful way to see the rugged beauty of the area. Sharing the road isn't a problem, as there are few cars. The occasional golf cart slips by with only a soft whirr and a wave to mark its passage.



Horeback rides along the beach and intimate dining create a romantic getaway

For the extremely hardy, venturing off the paved roads is a great way to experience island life. Houses sit quietly along peaceful sand streets. Friendly dogs often keep pace with the curious strangers. The sand on the roads is deep, however, and sometimes walking is required.

"SITE" SEEING

Whether walking or biking Daufuskie's roads, there are many sites and places to visit. The most famous place on

Daufuskie – especially for bibliophiles – is Mary Field's School, where author Pat Conroy taught in the 1960s and his experience was chronicled in the book "The Water is Wide."

The First Union Baptist Church is also a popular point of interest. Built in 1881, the church was recently restored and receives many visitors.

For a true slice of the rich history Daufuskie enjoys, stop by the Billie Burns Museum. Enshrined in this simple outpost of history you'll find ancient oyster rakes, church organs and other fascinating memorabilia of Daufuskie's storied past.

Bloody Point, the southernmost point in South Carolina, also has a rich history. It was the part of Daufuskie Island where, according to legend, English settlers ambushed the Yemassee Indians in 1715.

But even in the wake of such violence, the overlying calm of Daufuskie infuses Bloody Point. The site now features the Bloody Point golf course and the reputable Breathe Spa.

For those interested in more artistic pursuits, the Silver Dew Pottery and Lava Art Shop offer friendly staff and beautiful works for sale.

If guided tours are more your thing, the resort features "Discover Daufuskie" bus tours that also highlight historic areas on the island.

"(The resort offers) a pretty in depth tour of the island," Homad said. "There's so much history to experience."

"It really is an exploratory island," said Jonna Orwig, special events manager for the resort.

Ecology tours also are offered through Outside Hilton Head. Orwig said these tours are geared toward experiencing the wildlife and foliage on the island. Prices for the tours vary, depending on whether it's included in a package or is taken as a single attraction.

ACTIVITIES ABOUND

Day visitors to Daufuskie have many options. Should you begin your island experience with a round of golf? Maybe a massage or a trail ride? Concentrating more strenuous pursuits at the beginning of the day can leave evenings free for an hour of peace at the Breathe Spa, or an exotic cocktail and authentic cooking at Marshside Mama's.

Brushing up on your backhand or serve can be a good way to spend the morning on Daufuskie at the Melrose Tennis Center. Shady trees and ocean breezes surround the tennis courts, further contributing to the peace that pervades the island.

Clinics are available for adults and children as young as 4 years old, and