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Must Sees!

Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site & Gist Mansion

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/540.aspx

Offers visitors insight into the upcountry cotton plantation of South Carolina's "Secession Governor," William Henry Gist. Rose Hill served as Gist's primary residence during his tenure as governor and during the tumultuous months of pending Civil War. The early 19th Century Federal style house, its furnishings, surrounding gardens and outbuildings document the lifestyle, and changes experienced by the Gist family and African Americans who occupied the plantation from the antebellum-era through Reconstruction.

Spider Lilies at Landsford Canal

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/916.aspx

The last of a dozen 19th century South Carolina river canals, Landsford Canal has all of its major features intact. The park has a trail along the canal and a Lockkeeper's house which contains interpretive exhibits on the canal system in South Carolina. Out in the river is one of the largest known stands of rocky shoals spider lilies, tough plants that hang tight in the swift water and bloom spectacularly in a huge blanket of white in late May and early June. An easy-to-walk trail along the river leads to a viewing deck.

Kilburnie, the Inn at Craig Farm

www.kilburnie.com

Kilburnie, the Inn at Craig Farm is a luxurious, beautifully maintained Bed and Breakfast with the aura of a small private hotel. This 178 year old antebellum "Grand Dame" was moved in 1999 to 400-acre historic Craig Farm and completely restored to her former Greek revival grandeur. Recommended by Southern Living Magazine, Kilburnie attracts connoisseurs of sophisticated comfort, and romantic privacy. All commodious guestrooms have fireplaces and spacious private baths complete with Hydro therapy whirlpools. Kilburnie's quiet and expansive country setting belies its 30 miles proximity from Charlotte, NC. Kilburnie is known for its friendly European laced hospitality and its grounds are an exceptional setting for weddings, family reunions and special events. A separate upscale executive meeting center at historic Craig House provides the ultimate privacy and comfort for corporations and civic groups. The innkeeper, Johannes Tromp is the former General Manager of Windows on the World restaurant, which before 9/11 was one of New York City's premier establishments.

Springdale Race Course & National Steeplechase Museum

www.carolina-cup.org

Experience the excitement of Kershaw County's nationally renowned steeplechase races, the Carolina Cup in the spring and the Marion DuPont Scott Colonial Cup in the fall. A viewing stand welcomes visitors for early morning thoroughbred workouts. The National Steeplechase Museum is on the grounds of Springdale Race Course and features the national story of steeplechase through archival and interactive exhibits. Kershaw County also hosts many equine shows and races, horse farms, polo games and fox hunting.

Historic Brattonsville

www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/hb/index.htm

Listed as a National Register District, Historic Brattonsville has flourished to become one of the largest restoration and living history sites in the Southeast. Historic Brattonsville is a 775-acre living history village and Revolutionary War battlefield site featuring 29 historic structures including house museums that chronicle the development of the Carolina Piedmont from the 1750s through the 1840s. Award winning heritage farm program includes preservation of rare breeds of farm animals. Living history programs each Saturday March through November, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Special events include Battle re-enactment the second Saturday in July, Pottery Festival the first Saturday in October and annual Christmas Candlelight tours the first full weekend in December. Site includes the Walt Schrader Trails, 8 miles of hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding trails. Unique gift shop.

South Carolina Railroad Museum

www.scrm.org

Equipment owned by the museum includes #44, a ten wheeler steam locomotive once operated in the SC Lowcountry. Visitors are welcome 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, June through October for train rides. Open 9a.m.- 4p.m. Other weekends for special events include Train Rides with Santa, held for three Saturdays following Thanksgiving Day and the Easter Bunny Eggspress Trains, held the two Saturdays prior to Easter Sunday. Admission is charged for train rides.

Carowinds Theme and Water Park

www.carowinds.com

The country's only theme park located in two states, Carowinds features 108 action-packed acres that straddle the North and South Carolina border with more than 60 world class rides, shows and attractions. Experience a taste of "down under", down South at Boomerang Bay™ water park, a 16-acre Australian-themed Outback oasis of wet fun that features more than 25 water activities! Boomerang Bay is open mid-May through Labor Day on regular park operating days and is free with park admission. Visit Nickelodeon™ Central, loaded with more than 20 attractions that kids and their parents can enjoy together. Rub elbows with your favorite Nicktoons™ celebrities in one of the largest Nickelodeon® theme park areas in the world. Enjoy twelve exciting roller coasters, including Top Gun®: The Jet Coaster, Borg Assimilator™ and Thunder Road, as well as heart-pounding thrill rides like Drop Zone Stunt Tower™ and Scream Weaver™. See your favorite Christian and Gospel music stars perform in the 13,000 seat Paladium Amphitheatre. Open daily during the summer and weekends in the spring and fall.

Andrew Jackson State Park

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

"Old Hickory", the seventh president, wrote that he was born on South Carolina soil on March 15, 1767, at the plantation where his uncle, James Crawford, lived. This plantation, his birth site, is now a 360-acre state park which features a museum and a one-room 18th century schoolhouse.

Catawba Indian Nation

www.cppcrafts.com

This center preserves the heritage and culture of the Catawba Indian Nation through exhibits and demonstrations. Catawba Pottery available for purchase.

McLeod's Farms Roadside Stand & Antique Car Museum

www.macspride.com

Homegrown fruits and vegetables, bakery and ice cream shop. The Antique Museum is home to over 20 antique cars, including a 1920 McLaughlin, a 1930 Lincoln, Model T's and Model A's. There are over a dozen tractors from yesteryear along with other memorabilia that include farm implements, tools, phonographs, butter churns, and many other items of interest.

Historic Boykin

www.camden-sc.org/boykin.php

Take a step back in time with a visit to the Boykin Mill Pond community where you can see grain ground at the restored mill or watch as brooms are hand-made on 100 year-old original equipment at the Broom Place. Home of the Battle of Boykin's Mill, this location has been named one of the top 10 Carolinas' Civil War sites by Clint Johnson in his book, "Touring the Carolinas' Civil War Sites". Shoppers will be intrigued at the Boykin Company Store by floor-to-ceiling shelves filled with fresh farm products, general merchandise, gifts, gourmet foods and other tempting delights. Nearby is Swift Creek Baptist Church where generations of worshippers lifted their voices in prayer.

Bob Doster's Backstreet Studio & Gardens

www.bobdoster.com

Internationally renown artist invites visitors to his working studio, outdoor botanical and sculpture garden and art gallery, featuring the works of many distinguished artists. Housed in a row of historic storefronts, this eclectic site is an art-lovers dream come true. The private garden, complete with 55' fishpond and waterfalls, is an oasis in the middle of downtown Lancaster.

Cheraw State Park and Golf Course

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1554.aspx

South Carolina's first state park is located in the Sand Hills region. Cabins, campsites, hiking trails dot these 7,000 acres of forest. The 309-acre lake offers fishing and other recreational opportunities in a beautiful setting. An 18-hole championship golf course with full service pro shop is a popular attraction.

Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park

www.historic-camden.net

Historic Camden offers a view of colonial village life during the Revolutionary War period. Included are two circa-1800 log houses, and the authentically reconstructed Kershaw-Cornwallis House, a stop on the Revolutionary War Trail. Commandeered by Lord Cornwallis during the Revolution, the Kershaw-Cornwallis House served as the British headquarters during the war. Trails lead visitors to fortifications, a powder magazine, picnic facilities and nature trail. A large variety of local crafts, period reproductions and other special gift selections are found in the gift shop. Special events include Revolutionary War Field Days on the first weekend in November with local crafts, living history demonstrations, regimental drills and other festivities.

South Carolina Jazz Festival

www.scjazzfestival.com

The state's Jazz Festival is held in jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie's historic hometown of Cheraw yearly in October. The festival fuses the soulful sounds with the rich heritage of great jazz making this three day celebration a great time of exposure to a genre of incredible music. Performances include the legendary as well as "rising star" jazz artists. Check back often for the current lineup and updated schedule of events.

Carolina Adventure World

www.carolinaadventureworld.com

Situated on 2600 wooded acres of land, Carolina Adventure World is a unique family recreation park. It has 100 miles of ATV and single track trails of varying degrees of difficulty from "Green" nature trails meandering along babbling brooks with spectacular views, to "Blue" trails that offer the more experienced riders a chance to open it up. There are "Black Diamond" trails for those that have the skills and experience to ride the challenging hill climbs, and the technical trails that will stand even the most seasoned rider's hair on end! Also features a Motocross Area designed by Dirt Wurx U.S.A. that features a Championship Motocross course, a Vintage course for ATV competitors that love the "air time" and the thrills and chills of competition, plus an Enduro Course that challenges the skills and stamina of even the best of the best. Future plans include a thriving nature preserve, a youth area complete with go karts among other activities, dining, snack and entertainment features along with several more "family-friendly" activities, a natural beaver pond, a lake, streams, water falls, picnic areas, scenic natural areas, overnight accommodations--from rustic camp sites to comfortable cabins and a lodge in 2008. The welcome center, currently under construction, will feature wide verandas, swings, and rocking chairs, fans to keep cool, and fireplaces for warmth.

Union County Museum

www.unioncountymuseum.com

Housed in a beautifully restored 1923 building, the Union County Museum contains a broad collection of the county's history. Amassed over a period of more than one hundred years, artifacts include furniture, farm and textile equipment, pictures, portraits, personal items, several hundred photographs, pottery, glass, textiles, books and extensive archival materials. Every period of the county's history is represented. Included in the Military Exhibit are two of the three Civil War battle flags, which survived the war as well as the table upon which the Ordinance of Secession was drawn up and signed. Gift Shop on premises where books, maps and other items of historical interest are available. An extensive land grant map book can be purchased as well as artwork by local artisans. Many of these items are one-of-a kind and are not available at any other location.

Chester's Two Museums: Historical & Transportation

www.chesterscmuseum.org

Located in the old 1914 Chester jail, Historical Society Museum includes notable collections of Native American artifacts and firearms from the Revolutionary Era to the present, period costumes and relics of the War Between the States. The Transportation Museum opened in 2007 in the 1888 Freight Depot on Seaboard Railroad, contains buggies, wagons, a 1925 School Bus used in Chester County, a 1934 Ford, a collections of license tags from the first issued in 1917 through 1975, a 1896 wooden rim bicycle and many car and train related items. The Museum was created through a Department of Transportation Grant.