

HOST & HOME · LUXURY VACATION RENTALS

The Weekend Retreat: Lowcountry Luxury

Activities, beaches, dining, experiences, and curated stays for a seasonal getaway

Late-fall weekends on Hilton Head Island move at an easier pace. Mornings start with bikes rolling under live oaks and Spanish moss in Sea Pines, the air cool and the spartina marsh turned gold. By afternoon the highs settle into the upper 60s, the ocean holds in the mid-60s, and the wide sand at Palmetto Dunes feels close to private. Evenings slow down on Forest Beach, with oysters in season and the whole family around one table. It's a long weekend for every generation, and there's room for all of them.

> **THE QUICK ANSWER**
>
> Start Saturday with a one-hour trail ride at Lawton Stables through the 605-acre Sea Pines Forest Preserve, then board a 90-minute Sunset Dolphin Cruise from Harbour Town Yacht Basin. Close out Sunday with a sunrise walk at Coligny Beach, where parking is free year-round.

Our Host & Home "The Weekend Retreat: Lowcountry Luxury" Area Guide connects your whole family with the island's best activities, dining, experiences, and local favorites for a long weekend. Host & Home handles every detail before you arrive — offering a higher standard of care and a better way to stay on Hilton Head Island.

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WEEKEND STAY · BOOK DIRECT

Your Home Base for the Weekend

Stay a bike ride from the beach instead of a hotel hallway away. Every Host & Home stay comes with room for the whole family, a full kitchen, and a local team on call all weekend.

Long weekends book early. Reserve direct with no platform fees, and we'll help you find the home that fits your group.



ACTIVITIES

Explore

What to see and do around the island during your stay.



01 Explore Harbour Town

SEA PINES · 114 STEPS · $8 PER PERSON

Harbour Town sits on the southwest edge of Sea Pines, where the red-and-white lighthouse looks out over the yacht basin and Calibogue Sound. Climb its 114 steps for $8 a person, with kids 5 and under free and exhibits on each landing to break up the climb for every age. Back on the ground, more than 20 locally owned boutiques, galleries, and gift shops ring the harbor, and Gregg Russell has played for families under the Liberty Oak for more than 40 years. The lighthouse opens daily at 10 a.m., and Sea Pines charges a $10 daily vehicle pass at the gate. Stay through sunset, when the sound turns gold and the marina lights come on below.



02 Take a Dolphin Cruise

HARBOUR TOWN YACHT BASIN · 90 MINUTES · FROM $49.95

Bottlenose dolphins work the waters around Hilton Head Island year-round, and the quieter fall weekends make for an easy, unhurried trip out. Vagabond Cruise sails from Harbour Town Yacht Basin, right under the lighthouse, with a 90-minute Sunset Dolphin Cruise and a morning Donuts & Dolphins run, both from $49.95. H2O Sports runs one- to two-hour dolphin tours from the same marina, starting at $35. Both are easy, seated trips, so no one needs sea legs or a paddle. Book a day or two ahead, and bring a light layer for the breeze off Calibogue Sound.



03 Ride the Shoreline

60+ MILES OF PATHWAYS · GOLD BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

At low tide, Hilton Head Island's beaches turn wide and firm enough to ride, and a cruiser along the waterline is the best way to see them. Away from the sand, the island has more than 60 miles of public pathways and has held Gold Bicycle Friendly Community status from the League of American Bicyclists since 2011. Hilton Head Bicycle Company and Pedals Bicycles both deliver bikes to your door, with Pedals' cruisers starting at $25. Plan your ride for an hour or two on either side of low tide, when the packed sand is at its widest. Our concierge team can have bikes waiting when you arrive.



04 Kayak or Paddleboard

BROAD CREEK · CALIBOGUE SOUND · 2-HOUR TOURS

Broad Creek cuts through the middle of the island, and paddling its marsh puts you eye level with egrets, oyster beds, and the occasional dolphin. Outside Hilton Head leads a two-hour guided kayak nature tour from Shelter Cove, about $45 for a single kayak or $75 for an adult-and-child tandem. They also offer a family intro to stand-up paddleboarding, plus daily kayak and paddleboard rentals. On the south end, H2O Sports guides kayak and paddleboard tours from Harbour Town onto Calibogue Sound. Go in the morning, when the water is glassy and a grandparent and grandchild can share one boat.

RELAXED ATMOSPHERE · ISLAND FAVORITES

Dining

A few local favorites for a quiet, sit-down meal. From sunset seafood on Skull Creek to a burger patio in Park Plaza.



Skull Creek Dockside

SKULL CREEK · 2 HUDSON RD

Skull Creek Dockside is built like an old river house, with reclaimed wood, nautical touches, and a covered patio and outdoor bar over the water. The kitchen covers fresh seafood, barbecue, prime steaks, and daily specials, backed by a deep wine list. Skull Creek faces west, so the patio catches the sunset. Book an early table and let the kids watch the boats come in.

CharBar Co.

PARK PLAZA · 33 OFFICE PARK RD

CharBar Co. fills its patio with live music every day, warmed by an outdoor fireplace on cool fall nights. The Dirty South Burger, stacked with pimento cheese, pork belly, candied jalapeños, and bourbon barbecue sauce, finished in the top 20 at the World Burger Championship. Build-your-own burgers and fresh sushi mean picky eaters and adventurous ones both leave happy. Happy hour runs daily from 4 to 7 p.m.

Salty Dog Cafe

SOUTH BEACH MARINA · SINCE 1987

The Salty Dog Cafe has served South Beach Marina since 1987, with tables on the docks over Braddock Cove and live music on the water. Order the jerk mahi quesadilla or the Calibogue crab dip, then tell the kids the legend of Jake, the dog who swam his captain home. South Beach is a short walk away for an after-dinner stroll. Pick up the island's best-known T-shirt on the way out.

"Always the best burger on the island and the best burger I have had this year."

GUEST REVIEW · ON CHARBAR CO., PARK PLAZA

INTIMATE BEACH WALKS · ISLAND FAVORITES

Beaches

Families and couples alike cherish Hilton Head Island's coastal haven for its broad stretches of sun-drenched sand and calm, gentle Atlantic waters.



Coligny Beach

1 COLIGNY CIRCLE · FREE PARKING YEAR-ROUND

Coligny Beach Park sits at the end of Pope Avenue, steps from the shops and restaurants of Coligny Plaza. It's the only Town beach park with free parking year-round, and the boardwalk, swings, and fountains keep little ones busy between dips. Beach matting, outdoor showers, restrooms, and free beach wheelchair reservations make it easy for grandparents to come along. Arrive early on warm weekends.

Folly Field Beach

55 STARFISH DR · MID-ISLAND · 6 A.M.–10 P.M.

Folly Field Beach Park sits mid-island on the Atlantic side, where the crowds thin out and the sand runs wide at low tide. A boardwalk leads over the dunes, with beach matting, outdoor showers, and restrooms close to the lot. It's a calm, quiet stretch for a long family walk or a sunrise coffee. Metered parking rates change with the season, so check the Town's beach parking page first.

South Beach

SEA PINES · SOUTHERN TIP · $10 GATE PASS

South Beach curves around the southern tip of Sea Pines, where the Atlantic meets Calibogue Sound. It's a short walk from South Beach Marina, so an afternoon on the sand pairs easily with dinner at the Salty Dog. Past the marina, the beach turns quiet, with shorebirds working the flats at low tide. Sea Pines charges a $10 daily vehicle pass, and day visitors can't bring bikes through the gate.

LOCAL TIP

Walk at Sunrise

In November the sun comes up between about 6:40 and 7:05 a.m., right over the Atlantic beaches from Coligny to Folly Field. The tide here rises and falls six to seven feet on an average day, so a sunrise that lines up with low tide gives you the widest, firmest sand of the day, plus shells and tide pools for the kids. Check NOAA's tide chart for Port Royal Plantation (station 8669167) the night before. For golden hour at the other end of the day, head to Harbour Town or Skull Creek, where the sun sets over the water around 5:20 p.m.

SELECT EXPERIENCE

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding at Lawton Stables, inside the Sea Pines Forest Preserve



605 acres

SEA PINES FOREST PRESERVE

Protected woods, wetlands, and old rice fields along every trail ride.

Ages 8+

ONE-HOUR TRAIL RIDE · $100

Guided, western-style, at an easy walk. No experience needed.

$18

PONY RIDES · 18 MONTHS–7 YEARS

The youngest riders get their own turn in the saddle.

ON THE TRAIL

Lawton Stables sits inside the Sea Pines Forest Preserve, 605 acres of woods, wetlands, and old rice fields set aside by the Fraser family in the early 1970s. The guided trail ride runs one hour, western-style and at an easy walk, under live oaks and past quiet freshwater lakes. No riding experience is needed, so first-timers and longtime riders share the same trail. It's one of the few island activities where grandparents, parents, and kids can all take part together. Along the way you'll pass the Old Lawton Rice Field, one of the quietest corners of Hilton Head Island.

GOOD TO KNOW

Trail rides are $100 per person for riders 8 and up, with a 240-pound limit and helmets provided. Wear closed-toe, closed-back shoes and arrive 30 minutes early to check in. Riders from 18 months to 7 years can take an $18 pony ride, and the animal farm's goats, miniature donkeys, alpacas, and pigs welcome visitors for $3 a person. Book online ahead of time, and cancel with 24 hours' notice for a full refund. Afterward, walk the preserve's boardwalks to the 4,000-year-old Sea Pines Shell Ring, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bring cash for the $10 Sea Pines gate pass.

BOOK DIRECT · NO PLATFORM FEES

Signature Weekend Stays

A few of the homes we recommend for a long weekend together, from oceanfront Forest Beach to gated Palmetto Dunes.



2 Sandpiper Street

5 BED · 5 BATH · 15 GUESTS · NORTH FOREST BEACH

A short stroll from the sand in North Forest Beach, this updated five-bedroom home is built for a full-family weekend. The kitchen gathers everyone at a table for 10 with island seating for four, while the kids claim a bunk room with two twins and a twin-over-full. Out back, a private heated pool, six sun loungers, and a fire pit close out each day, and your dog is welcome too.



200 Olive Shell Court

3 BED · 3.5 BATH · 8 GUESTS

A gated Spanish Wells townhome with a private plunge pool, screened porches, and a community pool.



18 St. John's Place

4 BED · 4 BATH · 10 GUESTS

A lagoon-view porch, a fire pit, and a four-twin kids' room, 0.7 miles from the beach in Shipyard.



654 Queen's Grant

2 BED · 2 BATH · 4 GUESTS

A single-level Palmetto Dunes villa with vaulted ceilings, a private courtyard, and trails to the beach.



412 Ocean Walk

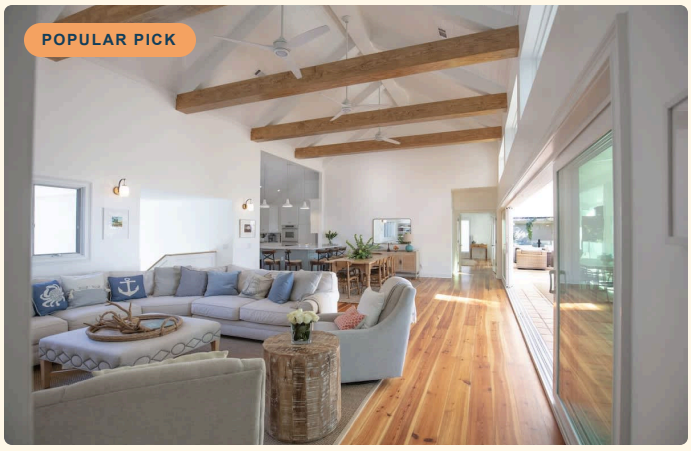
2 BED · 2 BATH · 6 GUESTS

A fourth-floor villa near Coligny with an elevator, indoor pool and hot tub, and on-site pickleball.

14 Juniper

6 BED · 5.5 BATH · 14 GUESTS · SOUTH FOREST BEACH

This oceanfront home sits steps from the sand in South Forest Beach, with direct beach access along a shaded path. Vaulted ceilings, wide windows, and several living areas give three generations room to spread out and still find each other at dinner. A private pool and spa sit beneath the palms, and the home pairs with 9 Juniper next door for larger reunions.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE

Host & Home manages homes and villas across Sea Pines, Palmetto Dunes, Forest Beach, Shipyard, Folly Field, Singleton Beach, Coligny, Spanish Wells, Broad Creek, and Fish Haul Beach. Long weekends book quickly, so see page 9 to connect with our local team and find the home that fits your group.

READY TO BOOK

Plan Your Next Stay

Host & Home offers a higher standard of stay: comfort, care, and craft; thoughtfully prepared for your arrival. Our team excels in providing high-end customer service and takes a proactive approach to ensure every detail is meticulously handled.

Drawing from hands-on experience in the 5-star hotel, real estate, and vacation rental industries, we've taken best practices to the next level, delivering a stay that feels effortless, local, and genuinely well cared for.

Everything Handled Before You Arrive

This is where a thoughtfully hosted stay makes the difference — more than just a place to sleep for the week. With Host & Home, the details are handled before you ever arrive: local support, a well-prepared home, and a Hilton Head experience that starts long before check-in.

LOCAL TEAM · 5-STAR EXPERIENCE · A BETTER WAY TO STAY



BOOK DIRECT · NO PLATFORM FEES · LOCAL TEAM ON CALL · CONCIERGE ON PAGE 9

HOST & HOME CONCIERGE · PERSONAL TRIP PLANNING

Let Us Handle the Details

Tee times, rentals, private chefs, and celebrations, all arranged by our local team.

Make the most of your stay with Host & Home Concierge, your personal resource for seamless vacation planning and unforgettable experiences. From securing tee times at the island's top golf courses and arranging golf cart and bike rentals to coordinating personalized experiences, we take care of the details so you can focus on enjoying your time on Hilton Head Island.



Golf Tee Times

Conveniently book tee times at top local golf courses.

Golf Cart Rentals

Arrange golf cart rentals for easy transportation during your stay.

Bike Rentals

Discover Hilton Head Island's scenic trails and beautiful beaches with convenient bike rentals for the whole family.

Personalized Guest Services

Enjoy beach gear rentals, grocery stocking, private chefs, boat charters, photography, kids' activities, and dinner reservations.

Special Events & Celebrations

Let us help plan birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, proposals, weddings, and corporate gatherings.

Start Your Concierge Request

Send your dates and wish list, and our team will take it from there.

EMAIL OUR CONCIERGE →

Find Your Family's Next Stay on Hilton Head Island

Ready for a better way to settle into the Lowcountry? Connect with us and book direct to start planning your coastal getaway.

Phone: 843-929-1538
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HOST & Home
— Luxury Vacation Rentals —