



www.TBredCountry.org

Thoroughbred Country South Carolina

Aiken | Allendale | Bamberg | Barnwell Counties

WE'RE WAY MORE THAN HORSES!

Come discover

Our History...

Experience four beautiful counties in western South Carolina where yesterday is preserved for today. History from every American era is evident throughout this region. Learn about Colonial Times through demonstrations in pottery, frontier trading and blacksmithing. Come explore Civil War battle sites and historic plantation homes. Visit our small, quaint towns where you will find museums rich with history and festivals that display local culture. Churches of the past and stories of the Charleston to Hamburg rail line are a common thread.

Our Nature...

While history abounds, Thoroughbred Country is also a place of natural beauty. Notice the Spanish moss gracing enormous live oak trees. Take in the local flora and fauna at a sanctuary. Ponder over the unusual elliptical phenomenon known as a Carolina Bay. Hike through an urban forest or let the elegance of a local garden carry you to another time. If you desire more active recreation, then paddle the Edisto River, the longest free-flowing, blackwater river in the world. Cool off with a drink from Blackville's Healing Springs, whose waters are believed to have curative powers.

Our Shopping...

"Shopper's Paradise" would also be an accurate description of this diverse region. Here you can shop for antiques and local crafts, such as locally-thrown pottery or Mennonite quilts. Unique gifts and art galleries including that of Jim Harrison, a nationally-known artist, can also be found.

Our Food...

Take a break from your adventures and enjoy our cuisine. Roadside stands, cozy cafes, freshly-baked Mennonite goods and full-scale dining as well as everything in between can be found here. Of course, we still have your southern favorites such as grits, barbeque, collards and fried chicken.

And Rest.

After a full day of experiencing our history, our nature, our shopping and our food, rest your head at a quaint bed and breakfast or a historic hotel. Awaken the next day refreshed and ready for the next adventure.

Touring Ideas

Day 1

Climb aboard the Aiken Trolley to experience Aiken and its grace, charm and elegance during this guided tour. Tours are scheduled every Saturday and reservations are required. Tours depart from the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum. Spend time at the Aiken County Historical Museum or enjoy shopping in the thriving downtown district.

Pack a picnic lunch and travel to North Augusta's Living History Park or enjoy birding at Silver Bluff Audubon Center & Sanctuary. Tour the mansion at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site or canoe the Edisto River Trail at Aiken State Park.

Treat yourself to dinner and sample our local flavor. Spend the remainder of your evening star-gazing at the planetarium, enjoying a live performance event or catching a baseball game at SRP Park. A night's rest can be found at one of the many historic inns.

Day 2

After breakfast, visit Williston, once the Asparagus Capital of the World and stop at the museum for displays of the town's local history. Continue on to Blackville for a guided tour. Tour offerings include Lill's Herb Garden and the Agricultural Heritage Museum.

Experience the Mennonite culture at Miller's Bread Basket or Healing Springs Country Store. Don't leave Blackville without a cup of cool water from the Healing Springs. Follow the history of the Charleston-Hamburg Railway to Denmark and enjoy shopping for antiques or original artwork at the Jim Harrison Gallery.

A variety of local restaurants can be found in Bamberg for a hearty meal. Travel south to Ehrhardt for an overnight at a local bed and breakfast where you will hear stories of the community's German heritage.

Day 3

Begin your day with a visit to Rivers Bridge State Historic Site outside of Ehrhardt. The site of the Battle of Rivers Bridge contains an award-winning Battlefield Interpretive Trail. Don't miss the Topper site exhibit at the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie campus to learn about the Clovis and pre-Clovis cultures in the area and the annual Paleoamerican Expedition field archaeology program.

Enjoy a sandwich or BBQ plate before traveling to Barnwell for history and shopping on the Circle. Be sure to check the time at the unique vertical sundial. Legend has it this is the only vertical sundial in the United States and it keeps within two minutes of standard time. Visit the Barnwell County Museum or The Little Red Barn Pottery and Art Gallery to shop for pottery and nature photography before enjoying dinner. Check out the schedule for the Circle Theatre for evening performances. Spend the night in one of the cabins at Barnwell State Park.

Golf, trail rides, fishing, hunting and biking are also available.

For more touring ideas, visit www.TBredCountry.org