



The Natural Thing to Do...

A rainbow-hued garden alive with fragrance and the calls of fairy-tale swans...stunning vistas across the treetops from the summit of a woodland trail...silence broken only by the gentle splash of an oar slicing the sparkling waters of a hidden bay...

Explore. Experience. Enjoy!

The natural beauty of Sumter, South Carolina entices nature lovers, whether for family fun and relaxation or adventures in challenging the elements. Our scenic beauty and sun-soaked climate offer the best in outdoor fun all year round, and there's always something exciting to do.

Welcome to Sumter, South Carolina's Gamecock City and County, home of "delightful stays and Southern ways."

Two hours from the beach, three hours from the mountains, and an easy day trip from some of the South's major metropolitan centers, we are truly "in the middle of everything." Located in the Midlands Plains region of the state, our verdant woods, rushing rivers and scenic lakes quicken the blood and delight the senses.

Sumter offers many opportunities for nature enthusiasts:

- Strolling along the Cypress Trail or through the world-famous Iris Gardens,
- Hiking the High Hills Extension of the Palmetto Trail,
- Biking through the pine-shaded paths at Poinsett State Park,
- Galloping along the equestrian trails at Manchester State Forest,
- Kayaking through the beautiful black waters of the Lynches River,
- Landing the catch of a lifetime at Lake Marion,
- Hunting the abundant game at Manchester during the height of the season,
- Teeing off at one of more than 20 golf courses located within an hour's drive of town,

And so much more!



Sumter Convention & Visitors Bureau

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A Haven for Naturalists...

From a quiet walk along the Cypress Trail that winds its way through the city and county, to the challenge of biking the hilly terrain of Poinsett State Park, Sumter's got your game! Beautifully preserved parks in the heart of our bustling city lead to the unspoiled outer reaches of the county.

A sampling of our natural delights includes:

- **SWAN LAKE IRIS GARDENS**, home to all eight known species of swans, along with Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks and other fowl, is a favorite spot for family picnics and leisurely strolls alongside the reflective cypress-tinted waters. A Braille Trail enables the sight-impaired to enjoy the scents and sensations of the Gardens. Late spring brings the flowering of thousands of Japanese iris, a visual symphony of purple and white. Children and adults alike love the playground area, featuring a 1920's fire engine. Swan Lake is also the scene of the annual Iris Festival, the award-winning celebration of Southern arts and action that attracts tens of thousands of visitors each Memorial Day weekend, and the Fantasy of Lights, the state's largest free holiday light display.
- **POINSETT STATE PARK**'s camping and picnic grounds, nestled among the pine groves and streams of Manchester State Forest, with hiking and biking trails offering various levels of challenge. The piedmont and the plains meet in this area that features unusual minglings of native plants, a treasure trove for horticulturists.
- **THE HIGH HILLS OF THE**

SANTEE PASSAGE, part of the Palmetto Trail that stretches across the state from the mountains to the sea. This invigorating hike overlooks the Wateree River and the High Hills, where the final days of the Civil War were fought. On a clear day, you can see downtown Columbia, forty miles away.

- **MANCHESTER STATE FOREST**, a haven for hunters and horsemen, also features trails suitable for mountain bikes, ATVs and motorcycles.

- The lure of a great catch draws world-class fishermen to **LAKE MARION** for year-round sport. The Santee-Cooper lake system sprawls across more than 11,000 acres in Sumter, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Berkeley Counties, and teems with large-mouth bass, striped bass, catfish and crappie. It is accessible from Sumter County via Pack's Landing, Rimini Landing and Sparkleberry Landing.

- **WOODS BAY STATE PARK**, one of the "Carolina Bays" whose mysterious origins are a continuing fascination to scientists. Enjoy strolling the boardwalk or canoeing across the quiet waters.

- A day spent kayaking along the **LYNCHEs RIVER**, one of the state's most precious Scenic Rivers, brings the tranquility of



a dense woodland of pine, oak and cypress. White-tailed deer and river otters are among the wildlife calling this peaceful area home. The historic river area was the site of the state's last duel, as well as a hiding place for those men and women of the Underground Railroad, looking to escape the bonds of slavery during the Civil War.

- Area **GOLF COURSES** offering unhurried, uncrowded and reasonably priced play are making the Midlands one of North America's favorite golf vacation destinations. **BEECH CREEK**, **CRYSTAL LAKES** and **LAKWOOD LINKS** host golfers of every skill level, from recreational to champion.

Delightful Stays...

At the end of the day, Sumter welcomes you to wind down with a variety of accommodations to suit every taste. To continue the outdoor experience, settle down at one of our park campgrounds--cabins, RV hookups and places to just pitch a tent are all available! For those who prefer modern conveniences, Sumter is home to many locally-owned and national chain hotels, offering a variety of amenities in price ranges to suit every budget. Please visit us online at www.sumtourtourism.com for a complete listing.

For more information, please call the Swan Lake Visitors Center at (803) 436-2640 or toll-free at 1-800-688-4748.

