

ROAD TRIP

Whether you long for adventure, cultural discovery, or fabulous food, these destinations close to home will surprise and delight



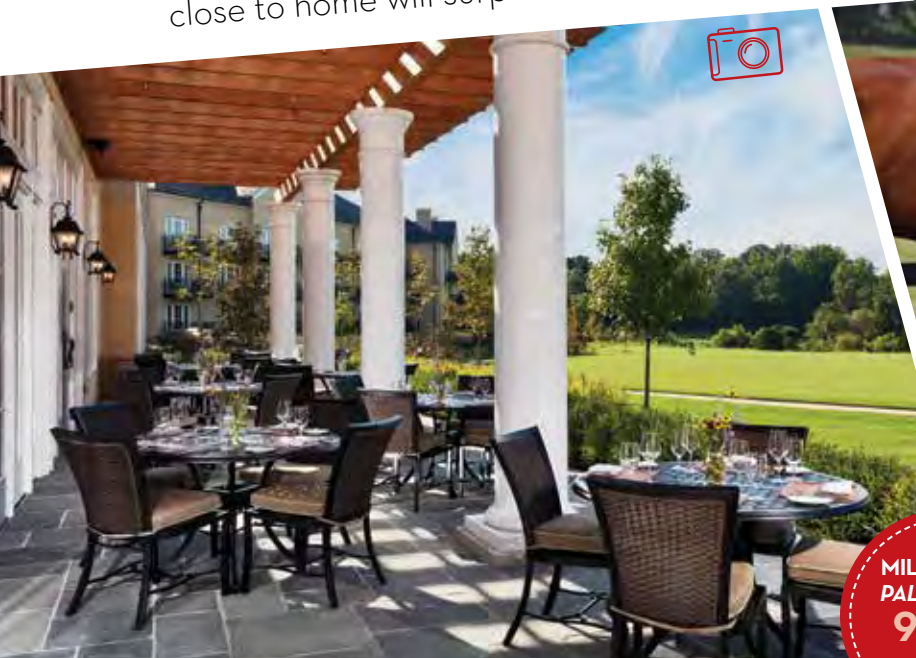
JUSTIN KRUEL



JEFF MAURITEN



JUSTIN KRUEL



JUSTIN KRUEL

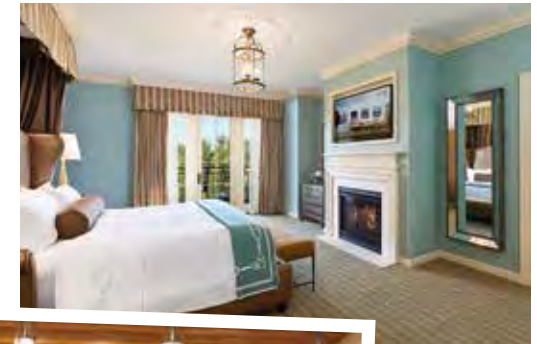


Middleburg, VA GREENER PASTURES

First known as the nation's horse-and-hunt capital, Middleburg, Virginia gushes small-town charm steeped in rich history. American Revolutionary War Lieutenant Colonel Leven Powell founded Middleburg in 1787 with the property he purchased from one of George Washington's cousins. In the early years, foxhunting and steeplechasing were the big draws. Today, it's a place to unwind for a luxurious respite in what is now considered horse and wine country. Saddle up, because there's plenty to explore when visiting this gem in the Virginia foothills. (*visit middleburgva.com*)—Teri Evans



JUSTIN KRUEL



STAY

When stepping inside Salamander Resort & Spa (*salamanderresort.com*) there's an immediate sense of Southern comfort. It's designed to resemble a country estate and mimic equestrian life. Paintings and sculptures of horses are sprinkled throughout the 340-acre property, which was listed among the Top Resorts in the South in *Conde Nast Traveler's* 2017 Readers' Choice Awards. The pet-friendly resort also provides dog beds, a special menu with freshly baked treats, toys, and even dog-sitting and grooming services.



SEE + DO



Virginia is the fifth-largest wine-grape producer in the country, and the smattering of wineries in and around Middleburg cater to all tastes. Situated on Route 50, the aptly named 50 West Vineyards (*50westvineyards.com*) has garnered medals at the Loudoun Wine Awards and the Virginia Governor's Cup. Connoisseurs should drive a half-hour west to Delaplane and stop at RdV Vineyards (*rdvineyards.com*), which has received praise from notable wine critic Robert Parker. For a more casual experience, Quattro Goombas Winery (*goombawine.com*) is a popular choice. Aside from tastings, it's known for its signature wine slushie that will instantly transport you to giddy college days. Pair it with a slice of deep-dish pizza topped with Grandma's ground pepperoni from the shop inside the winery. There's also a craft brewery next door, and fur babies are welcome in the outdoor seating areas.



VISIT MIDDLEBURG

WINERIES LIKE RdV VINEYARDS (LEFT) AND 50 WEST VINEYARDS (ABOVE) ARE POPULAR AREA ATTRACTIONS. BACK AT SALAMANDER RESORT & SPA, LUXURIATE ON A HEATED TEPIDIARIUM LOUNGE CHAIR, PARTICIPATE IN A COOKING CLASS, OR DINE ON JUMBO TIGER PRAWNS AT HARRIMANS VIRGINIA PIEDMONT GRILL.



JUSTIN KRUEL

trail rides (accommodating English and Western styles), plus an equine communication class to understand the art of horse whispering. Rather zipline through treetops? That can be arranged, too, through nearby Empower Adventures (*empoweradventures.com*). When it's time to unwind, block an afternoon for Salamander's luxurious spa, and enjoy a light bite in one of the cabanas at the spa pool. For an instant stress melt, the heated tepidarium lounge chairs are a must to relax the muscles and encourage blood flow—just in time for the next adventure.

EAT

For those with a taste for exceptional beef, the resort's Harrimans Virginia Piedmont Grill fits the bill. Try the melt-in-your-mouth braised short rib with espresso demi or, for the more daring, the Cowboy Cut, a 22-ounce prime rib eye with smoked pancetta pesto. Don't miss the crispy cauliflower but be warned: It's addictive. During Sunday brunch, executive pastry chef Jason Reaves (known for his several appearances on *Food Network* shows) fills the room with extravagant sweets, such as pecan-butterscotch scones, chocolate lavender pot de crèmes, and mascarpone cheesecake tarts. Foodies who relish preparing as much as savoring should take a cooking class in the on-site studio. Lessons are hands-on, and you can choose to complement your creation with a sommelier-recommended fine wine.



DON'T MISS: PLANNING A VISIT AROUND INDEPENDENCE DAY? THE PRESTIGIOUS GREAT MEADOW INTERNATIONAL FEI EVENTING NATIONS CUP (*GREATMEADOWINTERNATIONAL.COM*), JULY 6-8, IS A DRAW FOR EQUESTRIANS AND HORSE LOVERS ALIKE.



MILES FROM PALM BEACH 882



JEFFREY GOLDMAN



VISITORS CAN RESIDE AT THE CHIC CHANCELLOR'S HOUSE (LEFT AND ABOVE) OR THE HIP GRADUATE OXFORD (TOP LEFT AND RIGHT).

STAY

As Oxford's newest hotel, the 31-room Chancellor's House (*chancellorshouse.com*) emulates an elegant Southern estate with claw-foot tubs, fine linens, Ralph Lauren dog beds, and butler service. A Steinway Spirio piano gleams in the library adjacent to the lobby, which is the site of daily afternoon tea, a subtle nod to Oxford's British fixation. For quirkier environs, look to Graduate Oxford (*graduatehotels.com/oxford*), where boutique accommodations mesh Southern dandy style (think: seersucker curtains, walls adorned with local art, and pink oak floors) with the city's literary history (a stocked bookshelf poses as the front desk and lobby bar). Be sure to visit the hotel's rooftop bar, The Coop, to sip frôsé or a barrel-aged cocktail while taking in a second-to-none view of the city.

Oxford, MS

TASTE OF THE SOUTH

In hopes of attracting Mississippi's state university, Oxford's founders named the city in 1837 after another academic town, Oxford, England. The University of Mississippi followed shortly thereafter, and today, British references, such as red phone booths and double-decker buses, are sprinkled throughout this Southern hamlet. Despite its college town reputation, Oxford is more than Ole Miss football tailgates with chandelier-adorned tents—though there's plenty of that, too. Its bustling community of authors, musicians, artists, and chefs have earned the city a new moniker: Cultural Mecca of the South. The town square, steeped in history and surrounded by antebellum mansions, hums with a bevy of locally owned shops and innovative restaurants.



OLE MISS

With one foot planted in the past and the other stepping into the future, Oxford possesses all the appeal of a quaint town with the sophistication of a much larger city. (*visitoxfordms.com*) —Liz Petoniak

SEE + DO

The best way to see the sights in Oxford is via a double-decker bus tour narrated by historian Jack Mayfield, a fifth-generation Oxonian who shares stories not found in history books. Once you've gained a lay of the land, explore the city's rich literary roots at Rowan Oak (*rowanoak.com*), home of Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. Here, visitors can behold artifacts like his personal typewriter and an outline of *A Fable* penciled on the walls. Continue bookish pursuits by picking up signed first editions by Faulkner and other Oxford authors such as Barry Hannah, Willie Morris, and John Grisham at Square Books (*squarebooks.com*). The shop and café boasts a 90-foot-long balcony overlooking the square—an ideal place to post up with a tome and a cappuccino.



MEGAN WOLFE



BEGIN WITH A BITE AT BIG BAD BREAKFAST OR HEARTY TACOS AT OXFORD CANTEEN. THEN, TAKE A DOUBLE-DECKER BUS TOUR AND VISIT SITES LIKE ROWAN OAK (ABOVE, CENTER) AND OFF SQUARE BOOKS (LEFT). END THE DAY WITH A COCKTAIL AT SAINT LEO (UPPER RIGHT).



JOE WORTHEM



CAMERON PREMO

DON'T MISS: EVERY THURSDAY EVENING DURING FALL AND SPRING, CATCH A LIVE, UNREHEARSED TAPING OF *THACKER MOUNTAIN RADIO* (*THACKERMOUNTAIN.COM*), A PUBLICLY BROADCASTED *PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION*-STYLE SHOW, AT OFF SQUARE BOOKS. THE STACKS ARE PUSHED TO THE SIDE TO MAKE ROOM FOR HOST JIM DEES AND HIS GUESTS: NOTED SOUTHERN AUTHORS, POETS, AND MUSICIANS, WHOSE PERFORMANCES CREATE A CONTAGIOUS KNEE-SLAPPING, TOE-TAPPING ATMOSPHERE. ARRIVE AT LEAST A HALF HOUR EARLY TO GRAB A SEAT AT THESE POPULAR GATHERINGS.



EAT

Food is Oxford's chief cultural product, and chefs from all backgrounds have migrated here to offer their interpretations of Southern cuisine. Nowhere is this more apparent than within James Beard Award-winning chef and cookbook author John Currence's restaurant empire (*citygroceryonline.com*). Currence nails everything from down-home morning meals at Big Bad Breakfast to cheesy shrimp and grits topped with Tabasco and brown sugar-cured bacon at City Grocery, his flagship, white-tablecloth eatery located on the square. Snackbar, his take on a French bistro crossed with a whiskey lodge, has given way to a new star chef: James Beard Award-nominated Vishwesh Bhatt. Hailing from India, Bhatt infuses his heritage into dishes like okra chaat and tandoori-spiced catfish. Additional foodie stops include Saint

Leo (*eatsaintleo.com*) for creative cocktails and wood-fired Italian plates in Brooklyn-esque digs, as well as Oxford Canteen (*oxfordcanteen.com*), a bright resto in a former service station that slings Vietnamese iced coffee and breakfast tacos.

SHOP: PERUSE THE SQUARE'S BOUTIQUES, BEGINNING WITH THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DEPARTMENT STORE, NEILSON'S (*NEILSONSDPARTMENTSTORE.COM*), WHICH STOCKS CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS FOR SOUTHERN BELLES AND GENTS. A CURATED EDIT OF DESIGNER THREADS CAN BE FOUND AT CICADA (*SHOPCICADA.COM*) AND VILLAGE TAILOR (*SHOPVILLAGETAILOR.COM*). MEANWHILE, MUSIC BUFFS WILL FIND THEIR CALLING AT THE END OF ALL MUSIC (*THEENDOFALLMUSIC.COM*), A RECORD STORE FULL OF LIMITED-EDITION RELEASES AND RARE VINYLs. AFTERWARD, TAKE IN A LIVE SHOW AT PROUD LARRY'S (*PROUDLARRYS.COM*), A PIZZA JOINT THAT'S HOSTED THE LIKES OF JOHN MAYER AND THE BLACK KEYS.



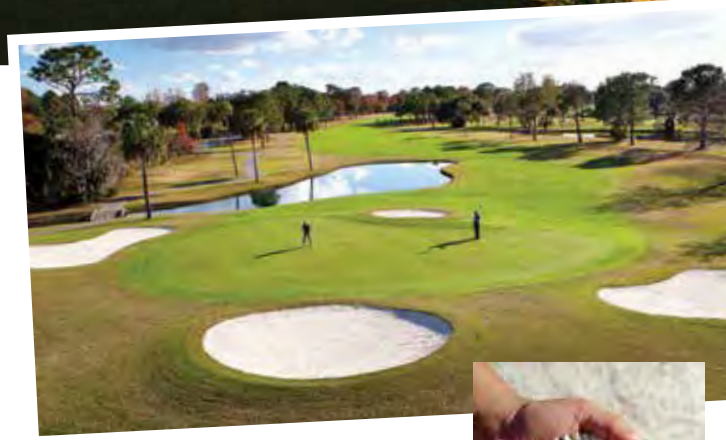
RONNIE HARRIS



MILES FROM PALM BEACH
247



MILES FROM PALM BEACH
134



COURTESY OF PLANTATION ON CRYSTAL RIVER

Crystal River SERENE SPRINGS

Centrally nestled on the state's Gulf Coast, Crystal River offers a glimpse of ancient Florida. Here, Spanish moss and solitary egrets cast an enchanting silhouette across clear spring waters, where sea cows play below the surface. The Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1983 to protect Florida manatees, and it is the only place in the state where swimmers can passively observe these gentle giants. (discovercrystalriverfl.com) —Mary Murray



STAY

Plantation on Crystal River (plantationoncrystalriver.com) stands as a beacon of Southern hospitality in this quaint city. Situated on 232 acres and surrounded by Kings Bay, the resort delivers everything one could want in a Crystal River vacation—and then some. Given the destination's eco-adventure reputation, you won't be spending too much time in your hotel room, but rather putting on the Plantation's golf courses or partaking in water-bound activities, such as boating, fishing, and scalloping.

SEE + DO

Crystal River's most famous resident is the Florida manatee, and the opportunity to swim alongside these creatures is the reason to visit. Plantation on Crystal River hosts snorkeling tours throughout the year, though you're most likely to see the greatest number of manatees during colder months (November through March), when they retreat to the temperate springs. But regardless of the season, your expert guide will scour the springs in search of these friendly marine mammals. Once he spots one (or more), he'll lead you and your tour-mates on a dive to put those passive-observation skills to the test. The manatees are used to humans, so don't be alarmed if one swims right underneath you. You might even hear the playful squeaks of two manatees in communication.



SHOP: FOR A TASTE OF LOCAL COLOR, STOP BY THE SHOPPES OF HERITAGE VILLAGE (theshoppesofheritagetown.com) TO PERUSE VINTAGE STORES LIKE SUN COAST VINTAGE GOODS AND PICK UP A MINI "LUCKY" MANATEE—AMONG OTHER MANATEE-THEMED GOODS—AT WILLOW CREEK'S SECRET GARDEN.



HOT TIP: BOOK YOUR MANATEE TOUR FOR THE MORNING BEFORE THE SPRINGS GET TOO BUSY. THE EARLIER YOUR OUTING, THE FEWER TOURISTS VYING FOR THE MANATEES' ATTENTION.



LOBSTER MAC AND CHEESE

EAT

After a full day outdoors, indulge in a down-home feast at Plantation on Crystal River's West 82° Grill. This casual eatery puts its own twist on fresh local ingredients, like shrimp and grits starring Gulf Coast shrimp and a signature bouillabaisse boasting grouper, clams, and alligator. Other area highlights include downtown Crystal River's Highlander Café and The Back Porch Garden Wine and Tea Bar, where you can savor made-from-scratch scones and an endless variety of teas.



SCOTT BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Key Largo FIRST STOP IN PARADISE

Blazing down U.S. 1 toward the Florida Keys, the beauty of the first isle off the highway is easy to miss. But between a new resort and one of the world's most sizable artificial reefs, Key Largo, the archipelago's largest island, warrants time to stop and savor a destination that's equal parts relaxation and adventure. —L.P.

SEE + DO

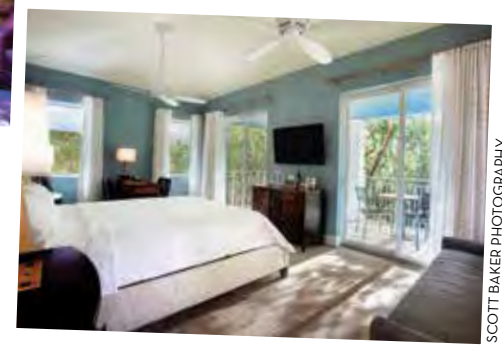
When sunbathing gets tiresome, take a break at Playa Largo's Ocean Spa, where indigenous ingredients make their way into everything from the hibiscus iced tea to the Aroma Coral Wrap that employs vegetal coral and a Bamboo Massage that replaces hot stones with warm bamboo sticks to roll out tension. Meanwhile, thrill-seeking types can appreciate Key Largo as a diver's haven. Barracuda and horse-eye jacks inhabit the submerged, 510-foot USS Spiegel Grove resting 6 miles off the coast, a draw for experienced divers. Closer to shore, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (pennekampark.com), the nation's first underwater state park, boasts the famous Christ of the Deep statue. And back at the resort, Caribbean Watersports rents kayaks and paddleboards for mangrove exploration, and also charters a catamaran timed to experience Key Largo's watercolor sunsets.



TAKE A CRAFT COCKTAIL CLASS AND DINE AT PLAYA LARGO'S LAS OLAS LOBBY BAR (UPPER LEFT) AND SOL BY THE SEA (FAR RIGHT).

STAY

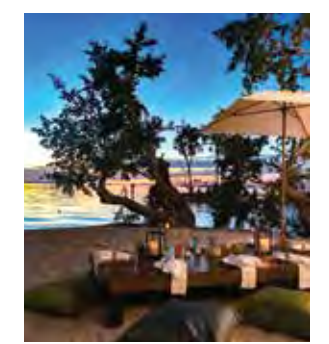
A refreshing pineapple mojito greets visitors at Playa Largo Resort & Spa (playalargoresort.com), part of the Marriott Autograph Collection and the first resort built in Key Largo in more than 20 years. The 14.5-acre property offers a contemporary take on the Keys' signature coastal style, with a laid-back-meets-luxe approach. A striking fountain and hanging chairs outfit the lobby, while a lagoon-like pool anchors the marina and man-made beach along the Florida Bay. Spacious suites, 10 uniquely decorated private bungalows, and a large beach house with its own private pool and garden all exude island serenity.



SCOTT BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

EAT

Bungalow guests can request a chef to prepare meals in the comfort of their kitchens. The resort's eateries are worth checking out, though. Savor an aperitif at the Las Olas lobby bar, which specializes in sushi, ceviche, and tropical cocktails made with fresh-pressed juices. Come dinnertime, enjoy locally caught fish on the water at rustic, open-air Sol by the Sea. The restaurant can also coordinate a Toes in the Sand



SCOTT BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

experience that consists of a candlelit dinner presented on a bohemian tablescape on the beach. Off property, iconic seafood joint Snappers Oceanfront Restaurant and Bar (snapperskeylargo.com) is back in business after recovering from Hurricane Irma. Stop in for brunch and its famous Bloody Mary and bubbly bars.



PORTOFINO BAY

MILES FROM PALM BEACH
167



HOGWARTS CASTLE



REES JONES SIGNATURE COURSE

MILES FROM PALM BEACH
455



DAUFUSKIE COMMUNITY FARM



CALIBOGUE CLUB AT HAIG POINT

DENNIS BURNETT

SEE + DO



ESCAPE FROM GRINGOTTS



MINION MAYHEM

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

The attractions at Universal Studios Florida range from the new Fast & Furious—Supercharged high-speed adventure to the fun (and funny) Despicable Me Minion Mayhem. The star, of course, is The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which attracts fans of the Potter books and films in droves. That experience begins at Universal Studios, where a faithful recreation of Diagon Alley is located, and continues—via the Hogwarts Express train—at Islands of Adventure, home of Hogsmeade and Hogwarts Castle. Wizarding World's most impressive attractions include Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey and the thrilling Escape from Gringotts. It's worth staying past nightfall to check out the light show at Hogwarts Castle.

Universal Orlando Resort

A WORLD OF IMAGINATION

Universal Pictures—the name evokes movie-making magic and entertainment of epic proportions. So it is at Universal Orlando Resort, where three exciting theme parks and six hotels combine into one family-friendly destination. Kids are dazzled by the thrills and effects, while grown-ups can appreciate the innovative interpretations of pop-culture icons like *The Fast and The Furious* and the *Harry Potter* franchise. (universalorlando.com)—Daphne Nikolopoulos



DON'T MISS: UNIVERSAL'S VOLCANO BAY (UNIVERSALORLANDO.COM/VOLCANOBAY) IS A WATER PARK ON STEROIDS—AND AN AWESOME WAY TO SPEND A HOT DAY. THE WATER SLIDES RANGE FROM INTENSE (A NEAR-VERTICAL DROP FROM THE TOP OF THE MASSIVE VOLCANO AT THE PARK'S CENTER) TO MELLOW (FLOATING ON A WINDING RIVER), AND CABANAS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WANT RESPIRE FROM IT ALL.



PORTOFINO BAY

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

STAY

In the interest of maximizing time spent at the theme parks, it's best to stay within the

confines of Universal Orlando Resort. Five hotels, and one coming online in August, offer options for every fancy. Lowes Hotels (loweshotels.com/universal-orlando) operates the entire resort universe: Royal Pacific, with an exotic South Seas vibe; Sapphire Falls, reminiscent of a tropical island; Portofino Bay, patterned after Italy's Amalfi Coast; music-imbued Hard Rock Hotel; the retro-styled Cabana Bay Beach Resort; and the newest property, ultra-sleek Aventura Hotel. The theme parks are a boat or shuttle ride (or walk!) away, and transportation is frequent and free. VIP benefits, such as fast passes, can be integrated into the hotel keys for seamless vacationing. A hotel stay within Universal also comes with early park admission, a must during those searing summer months.



EAT



Throughout the parks and branded resorts, the dining options are endless. A few that stand out: NBC Sports Grill & Brew at Universal CityWalk (407-224-3663), with more than 100 beer selections and

a massive HD-TV screen; Voodoo Doughnut (voodoodoughnut.com), with 50-plus original creations (try the Voodoo Doll with raspberry filling, chocolate frosting, and a pretzel "stake"), a dozen of which come in a wooden coffin; and The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium & Savory Feast Kitchen (407-224-2691), a steampunk-themed resto with steak, seafood, burgers, and a myriad chocolate confections in a highly entertaining setting.

STAY



Other than VRBO rentals, the 5-mile-long island doesn't offer many accommodation options. The most luxurious choice is Haig Point (haigpoint.com), a private community on prime Daufuskie beachfront. To explore the local lifestyle, opt for the Discovery Experience package, which includes a two-night stay in Strachan Mansion or in the charming three-bedroom lighthouse, circa 1873, that once served as the lightkeeper's cottage and is still lit today.



DENNIS BURNETT



DAUFUSKIE COMMUNITY FARM

SEE + DO

Equestrian pursuits top the list of activities. Haig Point's Equestrian Center offers trail and beach rides, the latter of which is not to be missed. Through Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society (daufuskiemarsh tackysociety.org), visitors can glimpse the rare Marsh Tacky horses (only 425 exist today) brought to South Carolina by Spanish conquistadors. Golfers will enjoy the 20-hole Rees Jones Signature Course, set amid the oaks and marshes of the Haig Point waterfront. The Daufuskie Community Farm (daufuskieartisanvillageandfarm.com) is a prime example of sustainable island living and a showcase of artisan crafts, including pottery, spinning, and weaving.



DENNIS BURNETT



ANTELOPE TENDERLOIN AT THE CALIBOGUE CLUB

EAT

The Calibogue Club at Haig Point has sweeping views of Calibogue Sound and some of the best seafood and steak on the island in a private-club setting. For a casual breakfast or lunch, the locals (all 400 of them) love Lucy Bell's Café, particularly the shrimp and grits with ham cream sauce. A short water taxi ride delivers guests to Harbour Town on Hilton Head Island, which teems with dining options. Best for Lowcountry cuisine served with a side of history is CQ's (cqsrestaurant.com). Don't skip the dark chocolate bourbon pecan pie.



DENNIS BURNETT

HAIG POINT LIGHTHOUSE

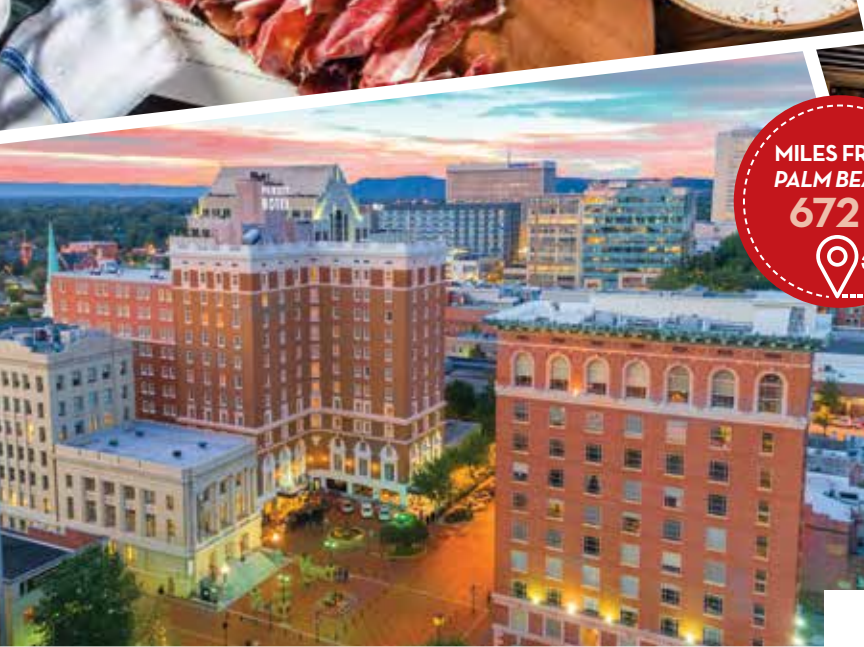
SHOP: THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND RUM DISTILLERY (843-342-4786) IS THE SOURCE FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED, SMALL-BATCH RUM IN FLAVORS LIKE KONA AND VANILLA. ART COLLECTORS WILL APPRECIATE THE IRON FISH ART GALLERY (IRONFISHART.COM), FEATURING CHASE ALLEN'S RENOWNED METAL FISH SCULPTURES. ISLAND TREASURE DAUFUSKIE BLUES (DAUFUSKIEBLUES.SQUARESPACE.COM) IS A WORKING STUDIO BY DAUFUSKIE'S OWN "INDIGO GIRLS," LEANNE

COULTER AND RHONDA DAVIS. COULTER AND DAVIS HAND-HARVEST INDIGO LEAVES AND EXTRACT THE DYE THROUGH AN ARDUOUS, CENTURIES-OLD PROCESS. THE RESULT IS A COLLECTION OF GORGEOUS TIE-DYE TEXTILES, FOUND AT THE OLD MARYFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING, WHERE AUTHOR PAT CONROY ONCE TAUGHT.

MICHAEL HRIZUK PHOTOGRAPHY



CHASE ALLEN



MILES FROM
PALM BEACH
672

Greenville, S.C.

RISING FOODIE SUPERSTAR

In recent years, America's obsession with the South's food and cocktail culture has propelled big cities like Charleston, New Orleans, and Nashville into the culinary spotlight. And now, some lesser-known players are finally getting their moments in time. Case in point: Greenville, South Carolina, where a thriving locavore-driven scene is branding this small city the next Charleston. Expect highly curated farm-to-table meals (most restaurants go as far as to list their local and regional purveyors) and world-class mixology

programs and wine lists to match. Plus, the city oozes charm with its well-manicured, pedestrian-friendly streets, beautiful parklands, intriguing history, and welcoming locals. (visitgreenillesc.com)
—Paul Rubio



STAY Experience Greenville past and present at The Westin Poinsett (westinpoinsettgreenville.com), a historic property at the center point of Main Street, which is walking distance to major sites and restaurants. The 12-story, William Lee Stoddart-designed hotel debuted in the summer of 1925 as The Poinsett, a symbol of prosperity in this burgeoning Southern city. It quickly gained a title as "Carolina's Finest." Flash-forward to today when it's entirely possible to ogle at the grandiose, meticulously restored period interiors and also rest comfortably in guestrooms that have been updated to deliver a predictable Westin style.



HALL'S CHOPHOUSE

EAT

Come hungry and prepare to eat with no regrets. Dedicate one night to dining at *Gianna* (jiannagreenville.com), a modern Italian kitchen/oyster bar hybrid helmed by executive chef Michael Kramer, best known for his award-winning cuisine at McCrady's in Charleston. Start with some house-made ricotta topped with truffle honey and sea salt, before moving on to phenomenal fresh pastas such as the *fusilli al nero* with shrimp, garlic, lemon, and chives.

For something more formal, try *Halls Chophouse* (hallschophousegreenville.com), a Lowcountry steak house serving dry-aged steaks cooked to perfection (patrons are even asked to cut into their meats in front of the waitstaff to ensure utmost quality) and decadent sides like lobster mac and cheese laced with a generous four ounces of lobster.

Begin or end evenings with handcrafted cocktails and craft beers at *UP on the Roof* (eatupdrinkup.net), a stylish rooftop bar with two expansive terraces offering bird's-eye views of downtown Greenville. For brunch, book ahead to feast at *Husk* (huskgreenville.com), the latest outpost of the famed restaurant from James Beard Award-winning chef Sean Brock. True to the original, *Husk Greenville* is a celebration of Southern cuisine and fresh, local ingredients. The menu changes



UP ON THE ROOF'S ROOF-TINI COCKTAIL

daily based on availability, but two can't-miss staples seem to always make the rounds: pimento cheese with Anson Mills benne crackers, and the Hurricane Creek grits topped with Royal Red shrimp, fava beans, shiitake mushrooms, and *agretti* (a savory Italian shrub).



BELOW: TAPAS AT THE LAZY GOAT, A STOP ON THE "AT THE CHEF'S TABLE CULINARY TOUR."



GETZ CREATIVE



PAUL CHERNEY



COURTESY OF VISITGREENILLES.C

SPEND THE HOURS BETWEEN MEALS PARTAKING IN NUMEROUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, LIKE BIKING SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL (ABOVE), WALKING THE LIBERTY BRIDGE (LEFT), OR VIEWING PUBLIC ARTWORKS SUCH AS DALE CHIHULY'S ROSE CRYSTAL TOWER (BELOW).

SEE + DO

Burn off calories with rewarding strolls through Falls Park, an exquisitely maintained public park in downtown Greenville's Historic West End. Walk over waterfalls, admire tulip gardens, cross the Liberty Bridge (a 345-foot, curved bridge hoisted by a single suspension cable), and go on a scavenger hunt to find more than 70 public works of art across the city, beginning with Dale Chihuly's *Rose Crystal Tower* in Falls Park. Feeling ambitious? Rent a bike from Reedy Rides (reedyrides.com) and pedal the 20-mile Swamp Rabbit Trail, which follows a former railroad track bed along the Reedy River. Not up for a workout? Indulge in a treatment at River Falls Spa (riverfallsspa.com) or go for gold with the full afternoon Spa for One package, which includes a facial, massage, and mani/pedi.



COURTESY OF VISITGREENILLES.C

DON'T MISS: BE SURE TO PASS THROUGH TOWN ON TUESDAY OR SATURDAY WHEN LOCAL HISTORIAN JOHN NOLAN HOSTS THE ULTIMATE GREENVILLE FOODIE PILGRIMAGE, "AT THE CHEF'S TABLE CULINARY TOUR" (GREENVILLEHISTORYTOURS.COM). OVER THREE HOURS, NOLAN ESCORTS SOME TWO-DOZEN FOOD LOVERS TO FIVE RESTAURANTS, WHERE CHEFS INTERACT WITH GUESTS AND PERSONALLY PRESENT LIBATION-PAIRED DISHES. WHILE RESTAURANT HOPPING, NOLAN SHARES A FUN HISTORY OF GREENVILLE AND ITS CULINARY EVOLUTION.



MILES FROM PALM BEACH
746



Winston-Salem, N.C.

TWIN CITY

Some things are just better together. Such is the case with Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Not to be confused with the witchy Massachusetts town, this Southern Salem dates back to 1766 when the Moravians (an Eastern European religious group) established a new homestead and selected a moniker that means “peaceful.” A hundred years later, neighboring Winston rose to prominence as an industrial hub for tobacco and textiles. They joined together in 1913, earning the nickname Twin City. While Winston-Salem’s commercial glory days may have faded, they left buildings and warehouses ripe for retrofitting as well as historic homes and landmarks that offer a view into the Winston-Salem of yesteryear. Add to this a grassroots business community eager to deliver the best in Southern food and culture, and you have the recipe for an unexpectedly enchanting drive destination. (visitwinstonsalem.com) —M.M.

ATLANTIC ARCHIVES/CHRISTOPHER LEONARD FOR VISIT WINSTON-SALEM



STAY Architecture buffs will adore The Cardinal Hotel (thecardinalhotel.com). This Kimpton property is located downtown in the Reynolds Building, the circa-1929 R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company headquarters and the design muse for the Empire State Building. The 174 rooms feature menswear-inspired decor (think: pinstriped wallpaper and chairs upholstered in Carolina tartan) in homage to Hanes clothing, another prominent Twin City company. Much of the tower’s Art Deco spirit remains, as seen in the original elevator banks and divine gold-leaf detailing. Downstairs, guests can frolic in a two-floor rec room outfitted with a basketball court, bowling alley, and adult-size

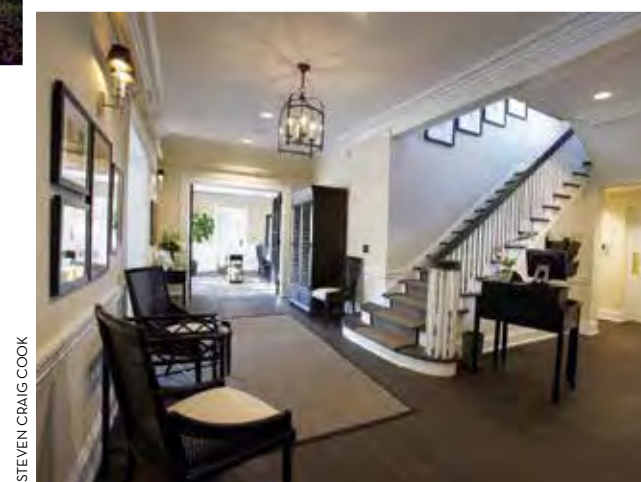


THE CARDINAL HOTEL’S EXTERIOR IS LIKE A MINI EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. INSIDE, DINE AT THE KATHARINE (ABOVE AND LEFT). GRAYLYN (UPPER AND FAR LEFT) WAS ONCE THE PRIVATE HOME OF A PROMINENT WINSTON-SALEM FAMILY.

slide. Situated off the lobby and named for R.J. Reynolds’ wife, The Katharine serves a modern brasserie menu in tribute to the couple’s Parisian honeymoon. For something totally different yet still very Winston-Salem, stay at Graylyn (graylyn.com). Formerly the estate of businessman Bowman Gray and his wife, Nathalie, Graylyn is the second largest private home in North Carolina that now functions as a hotel and conference center. The 55-acre property is open to the public and evocative of a British manor, with much of the interior looking as it did when Nathalie designed it, right down to the Prohibition-era hidden alcohol cubbies in the library. Top off your Graylyn visit with a meal by chef Gregory Rollins, a Barbados native with a keen eye for colorful compositions.

SEE + DO

More blocks from The Cardinal, the Downtown Arts District abounds with galleries, shops, eateries, and the public art park Artivity on the Green. At the nearby Sawtooth School for Visual Art (sawtooth.org), road trippers can join local creatives for a class on anything from painting to printmaking. Art aficionados should also venture outside downtown to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (secca.org), which brings dynamic visual installations and cultural events to an expanded estate where James G. Hanes once lived. No trip to Winston-Salem is complete without a stop at Reynolda House Museum of American Art (reynoldahouse.org). This 100-year-old historic home belonged to R.J. and Katharine Reynolds, and has been preserved to reflect their lives, complete with antique furniture and their personal belongings. In addition to the gardens and an impressive art collection, be sure to check out the sleeping porches, indoor pool, and a basement bar decked with mirrored walls.



STEVEN CRAIG COOK



JEFF SILKSTONE

GO ON ART OUTINGS AT SECCA (LEFT), ARTIVITY ON THE GREEN (ABOVE), AND REYNOLDA HOUSE (TOP). DEVOUR GRITZ & GREENZ (RIGHT) AT MARY’S GOURMET DINER AND SAMPLE UNIQUE SOUTHERN DISHES AT SPRING HOUSE (UPPER RIGHT).



RED BOAT PHOTOGRAPHY

Grandinetti cooks a seasonal menu dotted with signature items like a stack of fried green tomatoes loaded with pulled pork in a Cheerwine barbecue sauce.

Before heading to Spring House for dinner, you can fill (and fuel) your day at such breakfast favorites as Mary’s Gourmet Diner, which uses locally sourced produce and products to create dishes like Gritz & Greenz, and Krankies (krankiescoffee.com), a coffee roaster and shop known for its heavenly homemade biscuits. Just beyond Krankies, you’ll find Alma Mexicana and its unique tapas take on Mexican food, including a vegetarian-friendly eggplant-barbacoa taco. Pair it with a killer cocktail, like Alma’s Casa Horchata or a margarita accented with orange bitters. <<

EAT

An unassuming foodie haven, Winston-Salem’s restaurant scene excels in flavor and experience. For example: Spring House (springhouse.com), which slings up Southern dining with a sense of humor inside a 1920s-era mansion. Executive chef Tim



STEPHEN CHARLES

DON’T MISS: WINSTON-SALEM IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE ART-O-MAT ([ARTOMAT.ORG](http://artomat.org)). IN 1997, ARTIST CLARK WHITTINGTON BEGAN REFURBISHING OLD CIGARETTE MACHINES INTO ART DISPENSERS. THE IDEA TOOK OFF, AND ART-O-MATS CAN NOW BE FOUND WORLDWIDE, WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION IN WINSTON-SALEM. GO ON AN ART-O-MAT HUNT TO HIT SOME OF THE CITY’S COOLEST SITES. THE BEST PART: TOKENS ONLY COST \$5 AND YIELD SOUVENIRS YOU CAN’T GET ANYWHERE ELSE.

