

R₁ O₁ A₁ D₂ T₁ R₁ I₁ P₃

Ready for a memorable summer getaway?
Rev the engine and hit the road to one of these
Southern destinations not far from home.

DESTINATION
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

The Old South Charmer



here we go!



THE STREETS OF CHARLESTON
ERUPT WITH UNIQUENESS,
CHARM, AND COLOR.

SCENIC
AREA
→

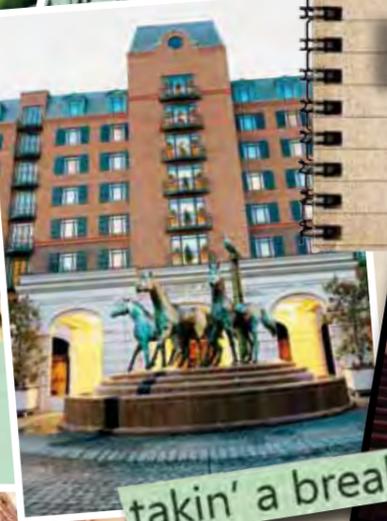


From the end of the American Revolution until South Carolina's succession from the Union in 1860, the South operated almost autonomously within the greater United States, pioneering the distinctive fashion, culture, etiquette, architecture and lifestyle now referred to as quintessentially "Southern." Though heavily destroyed during the Civil War, the spirit of the South's cultural and social capital, Charleston, never surrendered. And while the hoop dresses and bayonets have long disappeared, Charleston honors both the glory and pain of its historic past while adapting to modern times like a gracious Southern belle. (explorecharleston.com)

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 523

WHY GO: Charleston is one of America's most charming and historic cities, flaunting a surprisingly liberal edge. The city center buzzes with college students, foodies, tourists and families traversing the quaint and colorful streets of Rainbow Row, the tranquil waterfront and the residential alleys wrapped in grand live oaks and Spanish moss. Beyond Downtown's borders, greater Charleston revels in the beautiful beaches, historic monuments and plantation homes that define its Southern beauty.

TRY THIS: Meeting Street is downtown Charleston's principal thoroughfare, where romantic carriage tours and fascinating ghost tours recount the city's

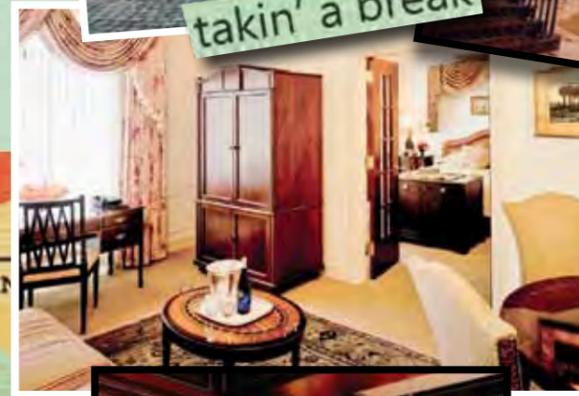


are we there yet?



FROM FAR LEFT:
BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE EXTERIOR,
SUITE AND STAIRCASE;
GOLF COURSE AND
VILLAGE AT WILD
DUNES RESORT. RIGHT:
BOARDWALK INN PRESI-
DENTIAL SUITE.

takin' a break



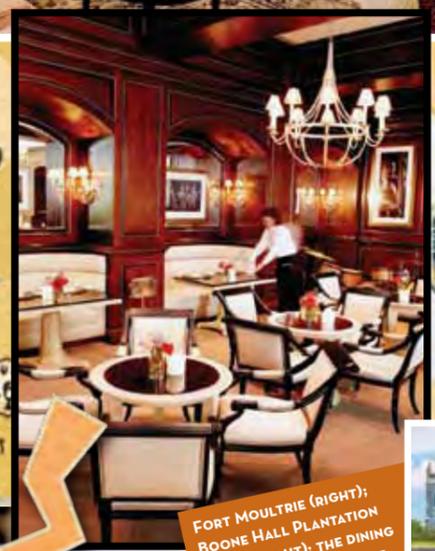
sordid and splendid past while sweetgrass basket weavers construct bespoke souvenirs from the Low Country. Museum Mile (charlestonmuseummile.org) teems with cultural heritage and senior docents, eager to disclose the many stories of Charleston's antebellum homes and historic places of worship.

WHERE TO SLEEP: Belmond Charleston Place (charlestonplace.com) is the city's premier hotel, blending eighteenth-century style with modern elegance. The hotel's iconic chandelier sways between two grand staircases, leading to suites and rooms that continue the antebellum fairy tale. The glass-enclosed rooftop pool and award-winning spa reign as the city's superlative retreats. The family-friendly Wild Dunes Resort (wilddunes.com) occupies the entirety of Charleston's Isle of Palms, with plentiful green space and beachfront peppered by two hotels, vacation rentals and condominiums. Resort-style amenities abound, including six dining outlets and oceanfront pools at the community's Grand Pavilion, a great place for the kids to socialize. The Tom Fazio-designed Links Golf Course is one of Fazio's personal favorites among the hundreds he's designed globally.

FOR FOODIES: The Charleston Grill (charlestongrill.com), a AAA Four-Diamond restaurant and the Mobile Four-Star award winner, presents a seasonally inspired menu of "Pure, Lush, Southern" and "Cosmopolitan" dishes complemented by one of the nation's best wine lists. Or, for a funky night out, head to Sullivan Island for the eclectic Poe's Tavern (poestavern.com). The bustling eatery serves farm-to-table bar food in a kitsch setting that pays homage to Edgar Allan Poe, who served at Fort Moultrie between 1827 and 1828.

TOP ATTRACTIONS: Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens (boonehallplantation.com) is one of the nation's oldest working plantations, open for tours of its original slave cabins, the colonial revival plantation house and antebellum structures.

Out on Sullivan Island, the restored armaments at Fort Moultrie (nps.gov) reveal a living chronicle of American sea-coast defense, beginning with the American Revolution and ending with World War II. Moultrie's cannons peer over desolate beaches, perfect for long, barefoot walks that end in the far reaches of the island. —Paul Rubio



FORT MOULTRIE (RIGHT);
BOONE HALL PLANTATION
(BELOW RIGHT); THE DINING
ROOM AND DELICACIES OF
CHARLESTON GRILL (LEFT).





FROM LEFT: GIRAFFE-GAZING AT ANIMAL KINGDOM LODGE; CHARACTER DINING; SUNRISE SAFARI AT ANIMAL KINGDOM.



NEW POSH PADS IN THE PANHANDLE INCLUDE HOTEL DUVAL (ABOVE) AND THE PEARL (BELOW). ISLAND TIME SAILING (RIGHT) OFFERS CATAMARAN CRUISES AROUND SHELL ISLAND.



buckle up

DESTINATION

FLORIDA PANHANDLE

welcome to

The House of Mouse



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: MAGIC BANDS; FIREWORKS OVER CINDERELLA'S CASTLE; WILD AFRICA TREK AT ANIMAL KINGDOM; AFRICAN COOKERY AT JIKO, ANIMAL KINGDOM LODGE; VIP TOUR GUIDES.



It wouldn't be a road trip if it didn't include Walt Disney World. We know what you're thinking: Again?

Thankfully for us jaded types, the Disney experience keeps evolving for the better. Case in point: Disney's new "magic bands," cool little bracelets that store all information for your trip, including accommodations, park tickets, dining reservations and even Fast Passes, pre-planned via My Disney Experience (mydisneyexperience.com). The bands replace paper Fast Passes, tickets, room keys and even cash. They don't call them "magic" for nothing.

And of course, there's always something new happening at the parks. Our picks: the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, the newest family coaster at Magic Kingdom, and the Princess Fairytale Hall, where Rapunzel, Cinderella, the sisters from *Frozen* and, on occasion, other princesses dwell, ready to pose with adoring fans. (disneyworld.disney.go.com)

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 167

WHY GO: If you have little kids, you already know the answer to this. If not, consider the stats: The 40-square-mile destination is a veritable land of enchantment with four theme parks, 36 resorts, 63 holes of golf, a sports complex, two spas and a shopping and entertainment district.

TRY THIS: For busy individuals or those who have no patience for queues, the VIP Tour Guide service is an absolute must. A plaid-vest-clad cast member escorts VIPs to all attractions, ensuring they never have to wait, and can even secure hard-to-get reservations, such as dinner with Winnie the Pooh and friends at The Crystal Palace. Sometimes, access means passing through "backstage" areas, which only adds to the experience. (407-560-4033)

WHERE TO SLEEP: With its grand lobby and savannah views, the Animal Kingdom Lodge exposes families to the wonders of Africa. Opt for a savannah view room and watch antelopes, giraffes and zebras roam beyond your balcony. We also recommend going for the Kilimanjaro Club experience, which entitles you to a Sunrise Safari through Disney's Animal Kingdom before the park gates open. The animal viewing is best in the early morning—and in privacy. (disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/animal-kingdom-lodge)

WHERE TO EAT: Character dining is to children what the Oscars are to adults. This necessitates reservations at Cinderella's Royal Table or The Crystal Palace in the Magic Kingdom or at Akershus Royal Banquet Hall in Epcot. Among those, Cinderella's offers the finest dining experience, but no one will pay attention to the food anyway. —Daphne Nikolopoulos



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: GULF SHRIMP; GOODWOOD MUSEUM AND GARDENS; WAKULLA SPRINGS; BOATYARD RESTAURANT.



The Rising Riviera

The roughly 200-mile belt known as the Florida Panhandle has been lauded as a top vacation destination for its gorgeous beaches, yet its rural qualities have always hindered its image as a luxury escape. In recent years, however, Florida's northwestern cities have drawn much-deserved positive attention; Tallahassee, for instance, is coming into its own as a hip city, shedding its reputation as just a blasé university or government town.

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 414 (Tallahassee), 525 (Panama City Beach), 537 (Rosemary Beach)

WHY GO: Panhandle cities are hidden gems of exquisite homes, sleepy fishing villages, national parks, oyster shacks and funky beach towns.

TRY THIS: Based in Panama City Beach, Island Time Sailing takes visitors on a catamaran cruise around Shell Island and then snorkeling with Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins. (islandtimesailing.com)

WHERE TO SLEEP: The suites at Tallahassee's Hotel Duval (hotelduval.com) boast varnished tree-trunk stools, oversized rain showers and a digital in-room concierge. The Panhandle's first true luxury hotel, Rosemary Beach's 55-room boutique hotel The Pearl (thepearlrb.com), is also the first in the country to feature Apple TV in guestrooms.

FOR FOODIES: Indulge in the seafood dishes and raw bar at the iconic Boatyard (boatyardclub.com), an 11-year-old institution relocating this summer to a larger home on Grand Lagoon at Treasure Island Marina. Firefly (fireflypcb.com) in Panama City Beach uses a 1,800-degree broiler to produce top-notch cuisine in a seductive ambiance. In Tallahassee's emerging Midtown district, the New Orleans-inspired resto-lounge Wine Loft (thewinelofttallahassee.net) matches handpicked wine selections with succulent small bites.

TOP ATTRACTIONS: Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park (floridastateparks.org), where some of the original *Tarzan* films were shot, houses miles of protected forest, the largest and deepest freshwater spring in the world and diverse wildlife including turtles, birds and deer. In Tallahassee, the Goodwood Museum and Gardens (goodwoodmuseum.org) still operates as a working plantation and is open to detailed tours.

For more information on cities in the Florida Panhandle, see visitsouthwalton.com, visitpanamacitybeach.com and visittallahassee.com. —P.R.



take a picture

Global Getaway

DESTINATION
MIAMI, FLORIDA

THE BEST MEMORIES

ABOVE AND LEFT: AN ART DECO CLASSIC, THE DELANO IS STILL KING OF THE SOUTH BEACH SCENE. BELOW: BALSAMIC GLAZED CARROTS AT LORENZO; THE LORENZO DINING ROOM; LOBSTER AT AREA 31.

THE RITZ-CARLTON KEY BISCAZYNE AND ITS AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (LEFT), ANTONIO BACHOUR (RIGHT, CENTER) PIPES MACARONS (FAR RIGHT) DURING A PASTRY CLASS AT ST. REGIS BAL HARBOUR.

Palm Beach's sexy, artsy, multi-culti sister to the south, Miami is hotter than ever with these newest must experiences.

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 69

WHERE TO SLEEP: Despite the onslaught of newbies along Collins and Ocean avenues, the hotel that defined South Beach glam two decades ago remains at the top of the Miami Beach food chain. Constant nips and tucks have maintained the Delano's (morganshotelgroup.com/delano) youthful glow, attracting a global who's-who to Philippe Starck's electrifying fantasyland, rife with Alice in Wonderland furnishings and white-on-white design schemes. Ask the concierge for the unpublicized (and complimentary) "ethos tour," where you'll learn the intricacies of Starck's vision and tour the hotel as a living museum: without a doubt one of Miami's coolest insider experiences. —P.R.

URBAN COOL: COMO Hotels & Resorts, a Singapore-based brand with which luxury travelers are familiar, has opened its first U.S. property on Collins Avenue in Miami. COMO took over the old location of The Traymore and transformed it into the Metropolitan, an urban concept with hip accommodations, a gin bar, a private dock and a rooftop spa, all designed with COMO's minimalist aesthetic.

The COMO Shambhala Urban Escape spa is a destination in itself. It features the brand's signature Asian therapies and an outdoor hydrotherapy pool overlooking the ocean. Shambhala cuisine, focused on living foods, is offered at the spa and as an option at the Traymore seafood restaurant. (comohotels.com/metropolitanmiamibeach) —D.N.

WHERE TO EAT: On the sixteenth floor of the trendy Epic Hotel, Area 31 (area31restaurant.com) doles out succulent selections from the marine region of its namesake. Executive Chef Wolfgang Birk perfects ocean-to-table cuisine with crudo dishes such as the grouper ceviche with shaved green papaya and tarragon as



ABOVE: CEBICHE CLASSICO (LEFT) AND OCTOPUS ANTICUCHO FROM LA MAR BY GASTÓN ACURIO. SHAMBHALA CUISINE (LEFT) IS A PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE METROPOLITAN BY COMO (BELOW).



well as fresh seafood prepared in one of four ways: tomato/olive/caper, red pepper sabayon, salsa verde or lemon/sea salt/chili. Add the excitement of an open kitchen, jaw-dropping rooftop views of the Miami skyline and a top-notch master sommelier to the mix, and you have the recipe for a fabulous Miami evening. —P.R.

ITALIAN ACCENT: Chicago celebrity Chef Tony Mantuano, of Spiaggia fame, makes his Florida debut in South Beach with Lorenzo (lorenzomiami.com). The authentic Italian cuisine does Mantuano's homeland proud, featuring hot and cold antipasti including the sublime balsamic glazed tri-color carrots and to-die-for arancini, savory pizzettas from the Italian wood-burning oven, grilled meats and fish, and house-made pastas and gelatos. Dine alfresco on Collins Avenue to people-watch or revel in the art deco-meets-Italy pizzazz of the dining room. —P.R.

A TASTE OF PERU: Disciples of Peruvian food know Gastón Acurio's name. Acurio is practically synonymous with *la cocina Peruana*, both in his native Peru and stateside, where he has opened La Mar Cebicheria (San Francisco) and Tanta (Chicago). And now, La Mar by Gastón Acurio, at the Mandarin Oriental Miami, brings his signature novo-Andean and Asian-Peruvian fusion cuisine to our fair state.

The experience is worth the drive from Palm Beach. Here are three tastes to try as you sit by the bay and marvel at the Brickell skyline:

- 1. Cebiche:** Classico if you are a purist; nikei if you prefer an Asian spin.
- 2. Tiraditos:** Peruvian-style sashimi with various versions of *leche de tigre* (tiger's milk), the concoction the fish marinates in.
- 3. Anticuchos:** Skewers, the popular Peruvian street food. If you are adventurous, opt for the *corazón* (heart). (mandarinoriental.com/miami) —D.N.

TRY THIS: If you've always wanted to learn the fine art of pastry, you may as well study with the best. Antonio Bachour, executive pastry chef at the St. Regis Bal Harbour, certainly qualifies.

Don't expect the basics here. In a recent class, the charismatic Bachour began with a demo on mixing and piping macarons. Talk about baptism by fire. The two-hour class continued with painted chocolates—a rigorous process yielding miniature works of art—and turtle-shaped cake pops, a hit with the younger set. Fall classes (\$100 per person) are held September 6 and November 8. Naturally, you'll sample the goods—and take some home. (stregisbalharbour.com) —D.N.

FOR KIDS: Miami, a haven for kids? Absolutely! With attractions like the Miami Children's Museum, Zoo Miami, the Miami Seaquarium and the new Museum of Science opening in 2015, there is a ton for youngsters to do.

The best place to base is undoubtedly Key Biscayne, where the pace is quiet and the beaches are most child-friendly. The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne has a program geared toward kids' natural curiosity. In partnership with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, the Ritz Kids program offers environmentally focused activities that help children learn stewardship for the planet and preservation of marine life through art, discovery and storytelling. Plus, there is a huge clubhouse (and a second one on the club level) with all sorts of activities for young explorers.

As a bonus for Mom and Dad, summer Weekend Escape packages (through September 31) include a \$500 resort credit. (ritzcarlton.com/keybiscayne) —D.N.



this way

FAMILY TIME

A Romantic Hideaway

DESTINATION
LITTLE PALM ISLAND, FLORIDA



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: ESCAPE TO AN ULTIMATE PICNIC BY SEAPLANE; INSIDE THE PLUSH BUNGALOWS; UNWIND AT A PRIVATE FIREPIT IN FRONT OF YOUR SUITE.

When your toes first touch the sand at Little Palm Island, consider yourself shipwrecked in paradise. This private resort oasis in the Florida Keys, accessible only by boat or seaplane, is the perfect escape for couples looking to get away from it all. Cell phone use is prohibited in public spaces, and you won't miss it.

Adventurous activities include deep-sea fishing, sailing and scuba diving—then savor the ultimate picnic as a seaplane whisks you off to a private island with a basket of culinary delights.

When it's time to turn in, there are 30 thatched-roof bungalows (each personalized with your name on a wooden plaque). The Island Romance suite is tucked away in a secluded location and includes an outdoor Jacuzzi on a large deck with privacy curtains, a bamboo outdoor shower, your own fire pit, a private dock and more.

When you must return to reality, the resort eases you back in. Upon retrieving your car, a tiny bottle of the island's signature coconut-mango fragrance mist sits on your dash with a card that reads: "Don't be sad that it's over. Be happy that it happened!" Indeed. (littlepalmisland.com)

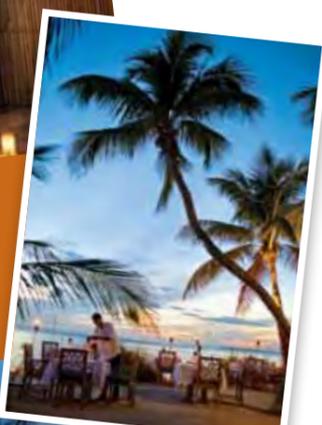
MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 207

WHY GO: Aside from the obvious appeal of seclusion, Little Palm Island boasts exquisite service and personalized attention. The resort has landed on numerous "best" lists, from *Travel & Leisure* to *Brides* magazines. It also earned a spot in the Platinum Circle at *Condé Nast Traveler* for being on the magazine's Gold List for the past five years straight.

TRY THIS: The Javanese Royal Treatment at SpaTerre. Inspired by a purifying ritual for Java's princesses, this decadent treatment includes a jasmine-scented Balinese massage, a rice and turmeric scrub, warm yogurt to soothe the skin and an exotic flower petal bath.

TOP ATTRACTION: Beautiful key deer roam free, swimming back and forth from the mainland. The tiny creatures (think Bambi) are especially visible during dinner on the beach—and some let you touch them. No worries, staff will gently intervene if they come too close to your breadbasket.

FOR FOODIES: The French and Pan-Latin cuisine at The Dining Room is refreshingly vibrant and has been lauded from AAA to Zagat. —Teri Evans



CLOCKWISE: EXOTIC PETAL FLOWER BATH AT SpaTerre; OCEANSIDE DINING AT THE DINING ROOM; PRIVATE DECK WITH A BAMBOO OUTDOOR SHOWER; KING CANOPY BED; KEY DEER ROAM FREE ON THE ISLAND.

Museum Musts

An array of art, sites and treasures awaits

ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOME AND MUSEUM, Key West

For bibliophiles and cat lovers alike, the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum is paradise. The home looks very similar to how the author, who lived there from 1931-40, left it, complete with Parisian antiques and descendants of his six-toed cat, Snowball. Guests can tour the home and the gardens, with guided tours available year round. (hemingwayhome.com)

PATRICIA AND PHILLIP FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, Miami

For more than 60 years, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science has explored the impact of science and technology on everyday life. Temporary exhibits cover topics like hurricanes and heart health in dynamic ways. Combine these with permanent attractions including a planetarium and a wildlife center and you have the recipe for one exciting (and informative) vacation. (miamisci.org)

THE DALI MUSEUM, St. Petersburg

The legacy of surrealist artist Salvador Dali thrives at The Dali Museum. Start with the building, which is a reflection of the Dali ethos with perplexing attributes like a glass bubble made of 1,062 triangles and a coiling staircase, an homage to the artist's fascination with spirals. Inside, you'll find a collection of 96 works spanning the artist's career. (thedali.org)

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Gainesville

Get acquainted with Florida's geography and wildlife at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Founded in 1891, the museum aims to preserve the biological history, diversity and heritage of Florida for future generations. Nine permanent exhibits include a butterfly rainforest, a look at the state's various ecosystems and fossils from Florida's oldest inhabitants. (flmnh.ufl.edu)—Mary Murray

HEMINGWAY HOME AND MUSEUM: ROB O'NEAL PHOTOGRAPHY; FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: ERIC ZAPORA

right on time!

A Golfer's Paradise

DESTINATION
NAPLES, FLORIDA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TIBURÓN GOLF COURSE; CRISPY JUMBO LUMP CRAB CAKE AT LEMONIA; GOLF SWING ANALYSIS AT TAYLORMADE PERFORMANCE LAB

World-class golf, fine dining and a luxury retreat are all at your fingertips in Naples, and there is no better place to indulge in all three than at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. This iconic property features the Tiburón championship golf course, designed by the legendary Greg Norman, and the decor in the suites has a British Colonial feel—plus extended balconies offering views of the golf course. Guests also enjoy beach access and other amenities at nearby sister property Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort—though many stay put, as there is plenty to enjoy. (ritzcarlton.com, tiburongcnaples.com)

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 149

WHY GO: The award-winning golf course is also a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary on the northern tip of the Everglades, a tranquil, stunning backdrop.

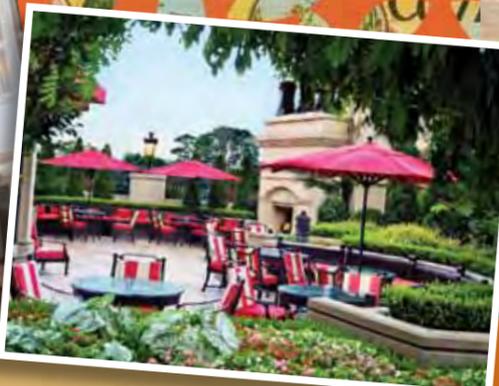
TRY THIS: The Golfers' Relief massage at the spa begins with muscle-soothing peppermint oils targeting the shoulders, lower back and back of the legs, interspersed with light stretching for complete redemption after a day on the green.

FOR FOODIES: Dine alfresco at the delightfully refined Lemonía bistro. We love the crispy jumbo lump crab cake appetizer with avocado relish and romesco sauce as well as the melt-in-your-mouth pan-roasted Chilean sea bass.

FOR SERIOUS-MINDED GOLFERS: Don't leave the resort without a visit to the TaylorMade Performance lab. Once only available to PGA pros, this hi-tech, interactive experience uses 3-D motion technology for a detailed analysis of your golf swing. The result? A custom-designed set of clubs that may just drive your next hole in one. —T.E.



enjoy the ride



the big adventure

The New Hot Spot

DESTINATION ATLANTA, GEORGIA



DESTINATION SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA

Family-Friendly Adventure

Affectionately known as “Hotlanta,” Georgia’s capital commingles big-city sophistication and small-town Southern charm across its three principal districts: Buckhead, Midtown and Downtown. The abundance of young sophisticates lends to its deserved moniker, and with Atlanta’s economy finally on the upswing, the city is poised to grow even hotter in the coming years.

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 595

WHY GO: This emerging metropolis attracts more than 35 million visitors annually to revel in world-class accommodations and attractions, sizzling nightlife and fabulous restaurants.

WHERE TO SLEEP: Rising 42 stories over Buckhead, The Mandarin Oriental, Atlanta (mandarinoriental.com/atlanta) is a masterpiece of haute style. Expect one-of-a-kind treatments at the 15,000-square-foot spa, such as the Peaches and Cream: a scrub and massage using peach oil and Georgia clay. Grandeur abounds at the St. Regis Atlanta (stregisatlanta.com) in the marble-clad lobby, the 40,000-square-foot Pool Piazza, the wine-room atrium and the sumptuous rooms and suites, accessorized with handcrafted chandeliers and exquisite art.

FOR FOODIES: French bistro meets Atlanta glam at F&B (fandbail.com), the personality-driven restaurant helmed by French-born Executive Chef Philippe Haddad. It’s standing room only at the St. Regis Bar, where the city’s bourgeoisie gathers for artisanal cocktails, fine wines and generous pours of luxe spirits, including the 2012 St. Regis Special Selection 3.0 bourbon by Woodford Reserve Distillery and the St. Regis Atlanta Herradura Private Selection Tequila. (stregisatlanta.com/the-st-regis-bar)

TRY THIS: Marvel at the whale sharks, beluga whales, sea otters, dolphins and penguins residing at the Georgia Aquarium (georgiaaquarium.org), the world’s largest. While there, swim with the whale sharks or have close encounters with other tenants, like the penguins. In partnership with Farmer D Organics, the Experience Farming package at the Mandarin Oriental, Atlanta (mandarinoriental.com/atlanta) takes guests an hour outside the city to Burge Plantation, where they’ll cultivate their own organic fruits and veggies. Discover the genesis and social impact of the world’s most popular soft drink at the interactive World of Coca-Cola museum (worldofcoca-cola.com). You can sample more than 100 Coke products from around the world at the Beverage Lounge. —P.R.

Regarded as a luxury resort that goes to great lengths to cater to families, Sea Island is steeped in tradition. In 1928, shortly after the Cloister opened, President Calvin Coolidge planted the first commemorative live oak tree. Over the years, five more U.S. presidents and other luminaries followed suit, and the trees serve as living reminders of the property’s rich history.

As you enter the resort, the stately decor—ornate chandeliers, heavy drapery and dark wood furnishings—are reminiscent of days gone by.

The diverse accommodations include the Cloister, with five miles of private beach, an acclaimed spa and a dizzying array of resort activities; the Lodge, a golfer’s hideaway resembling an English country manor; and the Cottages, vacation rentals for those who prefer a little extra privacy. (seaisland.com)

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 365

WHY GO: Families with diverse interests have countless options for all ages, including nature tours and every water sport under the sun. Prefer to stay dry? Try archery, stargazing or clay target shooting. Slots fill fast; sign up at least two weeks in advance.

ACCOLADES: The Cloister, the Lodge, the Georgian Room restaurant and the Spa at Sea Island earned five-star designations in Forbes Travel Guide’s 2014 list of Star Award Winners.

TOP ATTRACTIONS: Sharpen your golf game at three championship courses, including Seaside, site of the PGA Tour’s McGladrey Classic. Broadfield Sporting Club is also a draw for hunters.

TRY THIS: Explore Georgia’s coastline with a breathtaking horseback ride on the beach—novice riders are welcome.

FOR FOODIES: Wake up and head to the Cloister’s Georgian Room for a masterful Southern breakfast like the chicken and cornbread waffle or the Southern-fried chicken biscuits. The resort’s most-requested recipe? The homemade corn muffins, made with savory bacon.

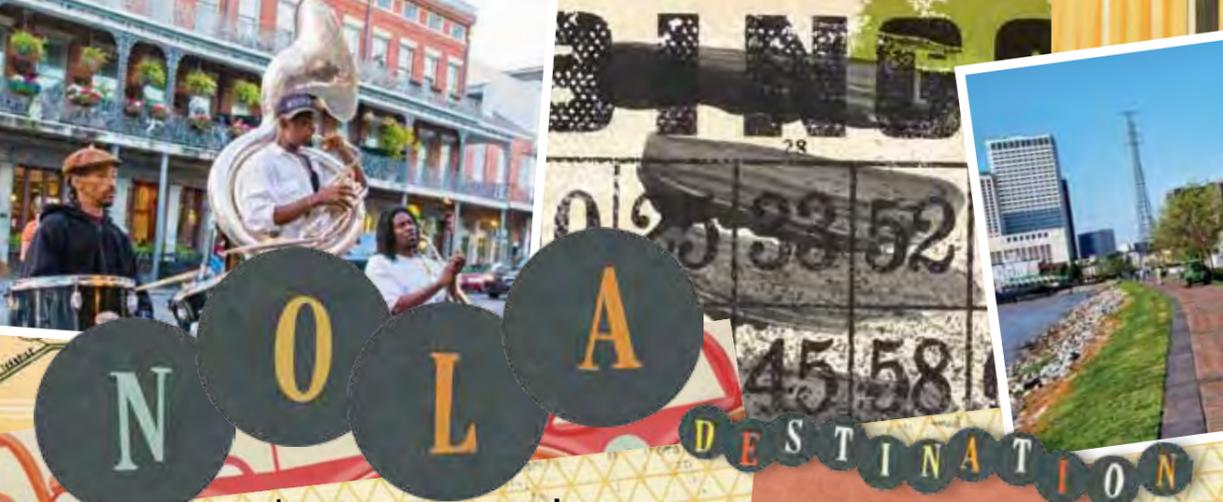
ULTRA INDULGENCE: Guests of the Lodge are assigned a 24-hour butler to cater to their every whim. Now that’s Southern hospitality. —T.E.



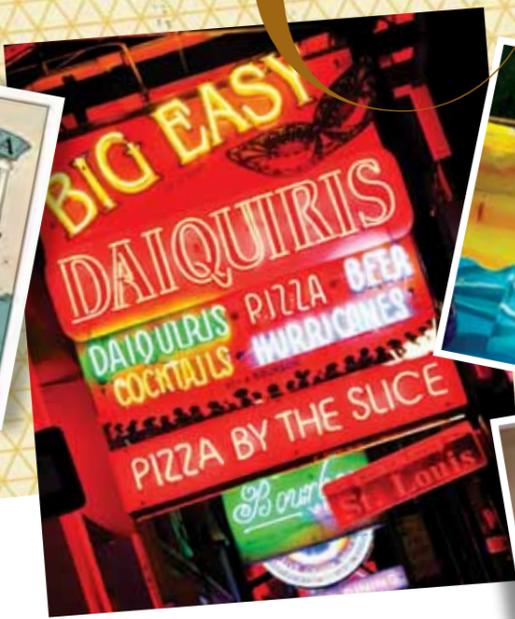
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ONE OF THREE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSES; THE CLOISTER; GRAND LOBBY OF THE CLOISTER; INSIDE THE LODGE; HORSEBACK RIDING ON THE BEACH; THE AWARD-WINNING GEORGIAN ROOM.



ABOVE: GEORGIA AQUARIUM. RIGHT: MANDARIN ORIENTAL, ATLANTA. BELOW: WORLD OF COCA-COLA MUSEUM.



The Lively Louisianan



NEW ORLEANS TEEMS WITH COLORFUL SCENES, PLACES, AND PEOPLE. BELOW: CAFÉ DU MONDE, A NOLA LANDMARK; PENTHOUSE AT WINDSOR COURT.

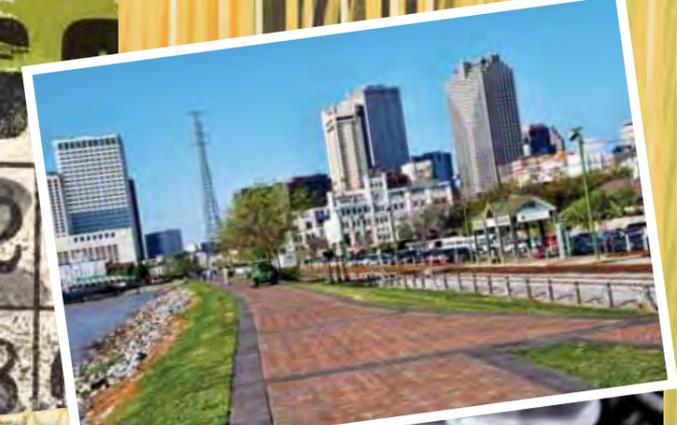
THE BEST MEMORIES

New Orleans evokes images of Mardi Gras parades, Cajun cuisine, jazz music, French architecture, Café du Monde beignets and Sazeracs. From the iron balconies of the French Quarter to the streetcars and mansions of St. Charles Avenue, the Big Easy is an invigorating city where the *joie de vivre* never fades. (neworleanscvb.com)

MILES FROM PALM BEACH: 800

WHY GO: Sure, there's a "will do anything for beads" side to New Orleans, but there's also an upscale locals scene rife with creative cuisine, mixology and riveting culture.

WHERE TO SLEEP: Inspired by England's Windsor Castle, the European high-style Windsor Court Hotel recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a \$22 million facelift. The top four floors of this regal high-rise enjoy access to the Club Lounge, which offers several food presentations daily, a dedicated concierge and panoramic views. (windsorcourthotel.com)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FOUNTAIN LOUNGE; SAZERACS; FRENCH CREOLE MASTERPIECES AT UPPERLINE; THE ROOSEVELT POOL AND EXTERIOR; CUISINE AT THE ROOSEVELT.



FOR FOODIES: Tucked in a residential lane off St. Charles Avenue, Upperline Restaurant (upperline.com) has arguably the best Creole cuisine in New Orleans. Also try Dickie Brennan's Tableau (tableaufrenchquarter.com), which recreates classic French Creole cuisine for today's foodie culture. The city's "It" bar circa 1938, the Fountain Lounge (therooseveltneworleans.com) has been restored to its original grandeur, serving authentic Sazeracs and Bayou Swizzles.

TOP ATTRACTIONS: Head for the block of Frenchmen Street (frenchmenstreetlive.com) in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood, which is lined with live music clubs and lounges. Then peruse the antique shops and art galleries—especially Gallery Burguières (galleryburguieres.com)—on the picturesque Royal Street. —P.R.



LEFT: OLD-SCHOOL ELEGANCE ABOUNDS AT WINDSOR COURT HOTEL. ABOVE: GALLERY BURGUIERES ON ROYAL STREET.