

FRESHWATER LAKE FACT

Lake Marion and Moultrie are not landlocked, which means boaters can leave Lake Moultrie through the Pinosike Lock and travel all the way to the Atlantic Ocean!

FRESHWATER RIVER FACT

Spanning more than 250 miles, the Edisto River is the longest free-flowing blackwater river in the United States.

SALTWATER FACT

The best time to go fishing in saltwater is when the tide is rising or falling. There's more movement in the water, and that means the fish are moving too.



South Carolina Association of Tourism Regions
SmilingFacesBeautifulPlaces.com



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SOUTH CAROLINA FISHING GUIDE



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FRESHWATER FISHING

Be sure to check with state parks, state lakes, city reservoirs, or county parks for special bag limits and regulations that apply to certain fishing areas throughout the state.

STREAMS

South Carolina is made up of more than 30,000 miles of streams and rivers that make their way through South Carolina's Upstate around the mountains and into the Midlands. These streams are a popular destination for fly fishing. While this type of fishing does require some practice and skill, streams are a great place to begin learning about the sport. And what better classroom than the beautiful mountains of South Carolina's Upstate? Make lasting memories with family and the people who matter most as you hone those fly fishing skills.

RIVERS

With thousands of miles of rivers throughout South Carolina, there is no shortage of great freshwater fishing spots. One of the Palmetto State's top rivers for fishing is the Pee Dee River, which is not only full of catfish and redear, but is also a beautiful place to spend a day on the water. Another great fishing destination is Whitewater River, well known for its breathtaking waterfalls and trout fishing.

LAKEs

Reconnect with family and friends to make lifelong memories at some of South Carolina's most scenic and beloved destinations — its lakes! The Palmetto State is home to 14 major reservoirs, which all together cover nearly 370,000 acres. Some of the top lake destinations for fishing include Lake Greenwood, Lake Marion, Lake Thurmond, Lake Moultrie, Lake Jocassee and Lake Murray. Just to name a few: Trout, bass, catfish, crappie, and shiners are found in the lakes. So make sure you bring plenty of bait!

NOTES FOR NEWCOMERS

- Fishing Licenses are required for all fishing. While a South Carolina Fishing License covers you on all areas of Lake Jocassee, some small tributaries cross into North Carolina. A North Carolina Fishing License must be purchased to fish up those streams.
- Lake Access Points are well marked.
- River Access Points and campgrounds are more remote. The roads to these points are typically gravel Forest Service roads, where signage can be difficult. Please prepare directions before-hand, or hire a guide.
- Please note that cell phone service on the Chattooga and Chuaga are likely a No Go. Most areas do not have service of any kind. Tell someone where you're going, check in with the Forest Service ranger station, or hire a guide. Plan before you fish.
- Avoid all perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented deodorants, lotions, makeup and detergents. Mosquitoes and gnats are common on the lakes, but the rivers have heavy populations of biting flies and gnats that are attracted to those scents.
- Wear seasonal appropriate clothing and bring backup clothes. The lakes are more temperate, but the rivers can experience plunges in temperature, especially at higher elevations (Oconee, Pickens counties) along the water.



WATER SAFETY

Be sure everyone has a life jacket on properly and that you're wearing high-SPF sunscreen. Life Jacket Leaver board locations can be found at BoatUS.org. Always check the weather and be aware of others while fishing and boating.

LEAVE NO TRACE

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national organization that protects the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly. The Center accomplishes this mission by delivering cutting-edge education and research to millions of people across the country every year.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors



Visit LNT.org to learn more about the Leave No Trace Organization.

REQUIRED LICENSES

A Social Security number and a government-issued ID are required for freshwater and saltwater fishing licenses. Children under 16 years of age do not need a fishing license. To find out more about licensing information, visit DNR.SC.gov/licensing.

REQUIRED LICENSES

- Bush hooks/pole lines
- Seines and gill nets
- Hooks and line
- Cast nets
- Trotlines
- Giggling



For DNR contact, registration, education, recycling and violation information, visit DNR.SC.gov.

OFFSHORE FISHING

DEEP SEA

Deep sea fishing is not for the faint of heart. Before heading out on an all-day excursion into the deep waters of the Atlantic Ocean, be sure that you have the sea legs to handle it. This is where you're likely to catch big game fish, including wahoo, sailfin, and mahi mahi.

INSHORE FISHING

SHELLFISH, CRABbing & SHRIMPING

Shellfish, crabbing and shrimping are also popular types of fishing in South Carolina. Visit public shellfish grounds, crab from a public dock or pier, or spend the day in the salt creeks and mud flats and cast for shrimp.



BRACKISH WATER

Brackish water is made when fresh water and sea water come together in bodies of water called estuaries. Both fresh and saltwater fish species mix in brackish water, which means you never know what you might catch.



THE FISH OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FRESHWATER

- BAYBROT TROUT
- BROOK TROUT
- BROWN TROUT
- STRIPED BASS
- HYBRID BASS
- BLACK CHAPPIE
- REDBREAST
- SUNFISH
- LARGE MOUTH BASS
- SMALL MOUTH BASS
- BLUE CATFISH
- CHANNEL CATFISH

SALTWATER

- SNAPPER
- MARI
- ATLANTIC SPADEFISH
- CODIA
- KING MACKEREL
- RED DRUM
- WARD
- SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
- SPANISH MACKEREL
- SPOTTED SEA TROUT
- GROUPER
- SHARK

SOUTH CAROLINA WATERWAYS

FINDSOUTHCAROLINA.COM

UPCOUNTRY

South Carolina's Upcountry region is one of natural beauty, outdoor adventures, and intriguing history. Follow the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byway for a taste of all of these features. Begin your journey at Cowpens National Battlefield where a critical battle of the American Revolution was won by the Patriot forces. Driving west you'll soon see peach orchards and strawberry fields before the road goes from flat to rolling. You're now beginning to see the Blue Ridge Mountain Range. Stop at roadside stands for peaches, strawberries, apples, or boiled peanuts. Take side trips to see rushing waterfalls, state parks, sparkling lakes, streams & rivers, and scenic view sheds.

www.UpCountrySC.com

LAKE HARTWELL COUNTRY

Lake Hartwell Country is an angler's paradise. Lake Jocassee, Lake Keowee, and Lake Hartwell are teeming with trout and bass, and rivers like the Chattooga, the Chauga, and the Eastatoe provide world-class fly-fishing experiences. There is no shortage of fishing waters in the region. Bass is king. Lake Hartwell now hosts four Bassmaster Classics, and Lake Keowee is home to some of the most crystal-clear waters and stunning views in the state. But you cannot forget Lake Jocassee, an undeveloped mountain lake where state-record trout roam. Add in one of the top fly-fishing waters east of the Mississippi on the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, and you've found your home.

www.LakeHartwellCountry.com

OLD 96 DISTRICT

The Old 96 District offers easy lake access and a variety of different fishing experiences and backdrops. Calhoun Falls State Park sits along several pine-covered points extending out into sparsely-developed Lake Russell, which hosts many annual fishing tournaments. If bass fishing and catfish events pique your interest, then Lake Greenwood is a popular option to cast your line across the 11,400-acre lake. Outside the silences of the woods at Baker Creek State Park sits Lake Thurmond, a 71,100-acre lake. This lake offers easy fishing access and is also home to Hickory Knob State Resort Park one of the best state park resorts in the southeast. Here you will find great fishing along with cabins, a lodge, a restaurant, and a bar. www.VisitOld96SC.com

THOROUGHbred COUNTRY

Longing for a change of pace? Thoroughbred Country offers an array of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Grab your kayak and fish along the South Fork of the Edisto River, a natural cathedral of hardwoods and cypress, home to pinfish, catfish, eels, largemouth bass, and the occasional alligator. Boat or perch on the Savannah River where beautiful scenery and abundant oysters provide excellent fishing of hardy nutrient-rich fish. Don't forget to check out the lakes of Aiken and Barnwell State Parks for a relaxing stay-and-play experience. In addition to fishing, this region has a variety of hunting, camping, disc golf, and equestrian activities to choose from. We're Way More than Horses! www.TheBredCountry.org

MOUNTAINS

MIDLANDS

COAST

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER DIVIDING LINE

The freshwater/saltwater dividing line on coastal rivers and creeks is typically located along US Highway 17.

* Map data consolidated from various sources. It should not be used as a strict navigational resource.

CAPITAL CITY/LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY

Capital City/Lake Murray Country is an angler's paradise and a world fishing destination! With over 650 miles of shoreline, Lake Murray is home to the best freshwater fishing in the world. The lake has broken numerous bass fishing records over the years and most recently was the first US location to host the XVI Black Bass World Championship. Twenty-five foreign countries competed on the waters of Lake Murray along with Team USA for gold medals in an Olympic-style championship. Lake Murray Country hosts many regional events and tournaments throughout the year - featuring fishing enthusiasts from striped bass, crappie, catfish, and bluegill. Visitors love working with our talented local fishing guides to learn the latest in fishing trends and tips. www.LakeMurrayCountry.com

OLDE ENGLISH DISTRICT

Natural beauty surrounds South Carolina's waterways, and the Olde English District offers many adventures for a variety of water enthusiasts, from the leisurely angler to the seasoned kayaker. Drift behind blooming Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies at Landford Canal in May and June for an exciting excursion. Rent a canoe at Chewaw State Park to experience the cypress wetlands of Lake Juniper or at Goodale State Park to paddle through a scenic forest. If the lake life is more your speed, opt for a visit to one of the many large bodies of water in the region, including Lake Wateree, Lake Wylie, and Lake Monticello. It's time to break out your paddles or fishing pole and begin your water-bound adventure. www.OldEnglishDistrict.com

PEE DEE REGION

The Pee Dee Region of South Carolina offers food, fishing, hiking, bird watching, camping and all the outdoor adventures you could imagine. We have the Big and Little Pee Dee Rivers, Lynchies River, and Black River which all are known for their natural beauty, fishing, and kayaking. Travel the 66 mile stretch of black water tributaries known as the Revolutionary Rivers National Recreation Trail ending up near Snowy's Island, Francis Marion's secretive headquarters. We also have three State Parks: Lee State Park, Little Pee Dee, and Woods Bay. After a day on one of our rivers or parks try some of the Pee Dee's great BBQ that we are also known for. For more information go to www.PeeDeeTourism.com.

MYRTLE BEACH & THE GRAND STRAND

There are no limits on the types of fishing in the Myrtle Beach area, from the pier to deep-sea charter fishing, saltwater to freshwater, and inland fishing. The Myrtle Beach area is home to several piers, with excellent Spanish mackerel and bluefish fishing, and 60 miles of beaches, perfect for casting a line from the shore. Freshwater fishing includes catfish, bass, and more. Hop aboard a deep-sea charter and catch sea bass at a whole new level. Several restaurants will also cook your catch! Murrells Inlet, one of the 14 Grand Strand communities, is the "Seafood Capital of South Carolina," with fishing and shrimp boats bringing fresh catches to restaurants throughout Myrtle Beach for a true hook-to-plate experience. www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com

HISTORIC CHARLESTON & RESORT ISLANDS

A destination on the coast, surrounded by salt marshes, tidal creeks, and the Atlantic Ocean, Charleston abounds with adventures and offers something for everyone. Kayak with dolphins on Shem Creek, cast your line from a pier, book an offshore fishing charter, or dive into the Lowcountry's culinary scene with fresh seafood on almost every menu. Whether you're looking for the next family excursion or opting for a more laid-back getaway, there are endless opportunities to take in those sweeping views and salty breezes that Charleston and its surrounding beaches have to offer. www.CharlestonVib.com

LOWCOUNTRY

The cliché "a sportsman's paradise" is often used to lure fishermen. In our SC Lowcountry, we have the bounty to affirm that claim. With upwards of 20 marinas, 56 boat ramps, 6 fishing piers, and 14 artificial reefs, it offers solid year-round fishing for freshwater species including largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, redearhead, and trophy catfish. Our marshes and estuaries showcase renowned, fast-paced action for prized inshore species including seatrout, reifish, and flounder. Offshore boaters are plentiful. Commonly captains make short work of dolphin, king mackerel, snapper, grouper, tuna, wahoo, and more. Come choose from dozens of creeks & rivers, a beautiful little inlet, or a great big ocean. If variety and versatility are your goals, we have it all! www.SouthCarolinaLowcountry.com

SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY

Santee Cooper Country is home to the largest lake system in South Carolina. Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie, Santee Cooper lakes, cover 171,000 acres of freshwater. The Santee Cooper lakes consistently rank as a top 20 best fishing lakes by Bassmaster. These lakes proudly hold several state records including the Arkansas Blue Catfish - 113.8 lbs. and Largemouth Bass - 16.2 lbs. The lakes vary from shallow swamps and blackwater ponds to vast open water with an abundance of underwater structures or fish habitats. The lakes do not freeze over in the winter making them available for fun all year long. www.SanteeCooperCountry.org